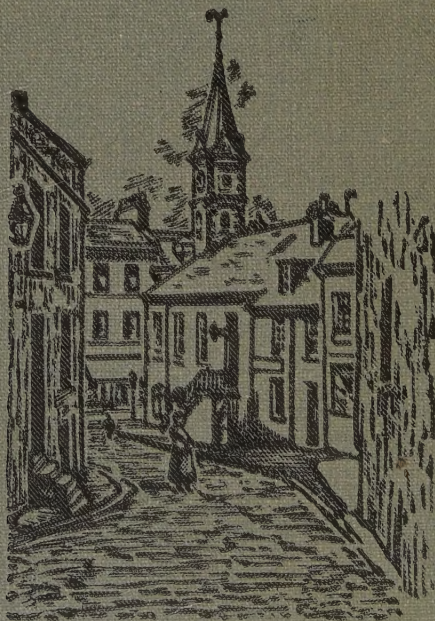


# **HAWICK IN THE EARLY SIXTIES.**

**By James Edgar.**





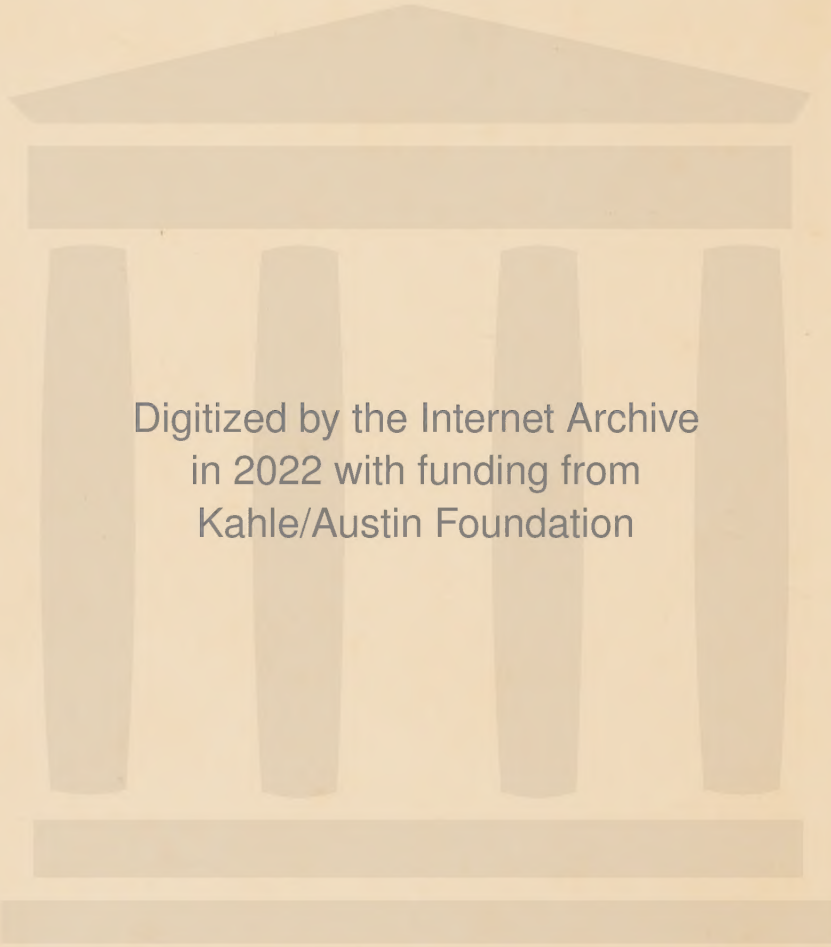


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# **HAWICK IN THE EARLY SIXTIES.**

BY

**JAMES EDGAR.**

WITH 36 PORTRAITS AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

HAWICK:  
THE "HAWICK EXPRESS" OFFICE, 5 HIGH STREET.  
1913.

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# HAWICK IN THE EARLY SIXTIES.

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## HOUSING CONDITIONS.

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**I**T is safe to say that in no half-century of the town's history have such great advances been made in social progress than during the last fifty years, and in confirmation of this one has only to compare the Hawick of the early sixties with the Hawick of the present day. Especially has the condition of the working classes improved; they are immeasurably better housed, vastly better clothed, enjoy better conditions of labour, have shorter hours, and all round have pleasures and comforts undreamt of by their parents fifty years ago. The old order has changed, giving place to the new, and the new is to be immensely preferred to the old.

At the beginning of the sixties, the population of the town was between 9,000, and 10,000, and for that number of inhabitants the housing accommodation was altogether inadequate. Then there was no Wellogate district, with its modern tenements, and neat villa residences; no Mansfield and Trinity, with their busy factories and well-appointed dwelling-houses. There were few houses in Wilton, and Gladstone Street, Beaconsfield Terrace, and other streets in the west end of the town had not then been laid out. The people were crowded into the stuffy closes and narrow wynds in the centre of the town, the majority of the houses occupied being small, dilapidated, and insanitary.

During the previous thirty years the population of the town had about doubled, yet comparatively few houses had been built. As a

consequence, dwelling-houses were most difficult to secure, and it was no uncommon occurrence for two families to be found occupying the same apartment. In fact, one instance is on record of three families, numbering, in all, eleven persons, occupying, for a considerable period, a single room, measuring 12 feet by 15 feet, there being three beds, a shake-down and a cradle in the apartment. There is another authenticated case of a single family of twelve persons occupying one apartment, 15 feet by 15½ feet, the family consisting of husband and wife, eight sons and daughters, several of them grown-up, and two grandchildren. These were by no means isolated cases, for in one hundred houses, which were examined in 1860, forty-two of them were found to consist of single apartments, each measuring less than 12 feet by 14 feet. These forty-two one-roomed houses accommodated 347 persons, giving an average of eight to each room.

These cases of over-crowding occurred principally in such streets as the Loan, the Back Row, Fore Row, Mid Row, Kirk Wynd, Mather's Close (now Baker Street), Walter's Wynd, Tannage Close, and in a number of tenements at the rear of the north side of the High Street. A great many families also resided in cellars—dark, damp, and foul-smelling, and into which the light of day could never be said to penetrate. These cellars were to be found throughout the whole town, and many large families were reared in them. Single-roomed attics, or garrets as they were then commonly called, were also common. With such over-crowding, and insanitary conditions, there need be little wonder that epidemics of fevers, smallpox, and other diseases were frequent. In fact, it may be said that the town was scarcely ever free from infectious diseases of a more or less virulent type, and the mortality, especially amongst children, was exceptionally high.

With the growing prosperity of the town, and the increased employment provided by the tweed and hosiery trades, the population was rapidly rising, and the difficulty of securing dwelling-house accommodation was most acutely felt. At Whitsunday, 1860, fifty families found themselves without a roof over their heads, and those

unfortunate people had to seek shelter in homes, most of which were already over-crowded. Some idea of the difficulties experienced may be realised when it is stated that for several months a man and his wife and three children lived in a hay loft without a fireplace. The scarcity of dwelling-houses led to some extraordinary shifts on the part of the people, and in Wilton there was an old joiner's shop which, latterly, had become so dilapidated as to be considered unfit for a weaver's loom, but which, in the dire straits which prevailed, was requisitioned for domestic purposes. It was of a strange oblong shape, measuring about 14 feet at the one end, and tapering away until it was only about 5 feet at the other. Its side walls formed the gables of two houses; it was roofed with felt, and had a damp earthen floor. Its rough walls were often streaming with water, and it possessed no fireplace. Yet this place was inhabited, for some time, by a family. A practically dark cellar in Dickson Street was utilised as a dwelling-house, although the walls were unplastered, and the floor paved with rough stones. It was no uncommon thing for marriages to be delayed because of the difficulty experienced by the young couple in securing a house, and in many instances the newly married pair had to temporarily take up their abode with the bride or bridegroom's parents.

The scarcity of houses which prevailed at that time, as well as the miserable and inadequate accommodation provided by those which were to be had gradually began to give rise to considerable local controversy, and the question was taken up and reported on by the Free Church Presbytery of Jedburgh, within whose bounds Hawick, at that time, was. An elaborate report, compiled by a special committee, was presented to that body in April, 1860. Summing up their reflections on what they called "an evil of fearful magnitude," their report concluded:—"An improvement in the condition of the dwellings in Hawick, as well as an increase in their supply would not only be the means of increasing health and domestic comfort, but of moral elevation of the working classes. Hawick, on account of its intemperance, its Sabbath profanation, and daylight wickedness, has long





THE CROSS WYND IN THE SIXTIES.

stood before the eyes of surrounding towns and villages, as a Saul among the sinners of this generation. We know her vices, and seek not to palliate them. Still, we have a strong conviction that darker specimens of moral depravity are to be found in the hidden corners of the country.

"To remove her profanation, and regenerate her population, there is a Union Poorhouse, a Ragged School, and a Missionary Station, supported, to some extent, by a rich and religious aristocracy. It may be a duty to uphold that present palace, where the wasted and wicked find a shelter, but not a home; it may be a duty to instruct her orphan and neglected children, and to preach Christ to the very dregs of her population; but may not land proprietors, men of influence, and ministers of the Gospel conclude that they have done a great work in supporting these public institutions, while the private or social arrangements under their control have been so neglected or directed as to produce the very ignorance, pauperism, and wretchedness that devour their charity? The community of alms-givers may feel the sweet satisfaction in counting the cost at which they feed so many paupers, and educate so many children, without ever thinking that the causes of these social and moral evils might be removed by improving the dwellings of the poor.

"It is not in the nature of things that moral and susceptible beings can live for any length of time above the circumstances in which they are placed, and remain uncontaminated, in a damp, dark, dirty dwelling-house, where every object the eye can rest upon shocks the senses and wars against human instincts. No, in such a home vice will often grow rampant, and over-shadow all that is lovely, and of good report among men; and it is from such homes that fell maladies, unsatiated, walk abroad and slay the wealthy in their selfish security. There is room for acts of charity in the world, but that is no charity that feeds pauperism in a palace, and denies honest industry a home to dwell in. It is high time to consider if it would not be better to build roomy cottages than big workhouses—to pay honest labour than support pauperism."

With a view of providing improved accommodation, a building society had been formed about the year 1851, but, on account of the difficulty experienced in securing suitable building ground, their efforts had been attended with but little success. After the passing of the Police and Improvement Act in 1861, and the formation of the new Town Council, efforts to improve the town, in various directions, were entered upon with zeal and energy, and in 1864 the present Building Society was formed, and it is a matter of common knowledge that their labours have been crowned with a measure of gratifying success. Since its formation, the Society, which, since 1888, has been known as the Hawick Working Men's Building and Investment Coy., Ltd., have erected, for its members, 324 quarter-houses, 20 half-houses, and 94 cottages, at a total cost of £94,437. The first houses to be erected were at Waverley Terrace, which were a very great improvement on those existing in the town at that time. All the Company's houses have had garden plots attached, and through their efforts, as well as through the enterprise shown by private builders, better housing accommodation, than that which now prevails in Hawick, is not to be found in any town in the country.

The early sixties saw the removal of many ancient landmarks in the town, the march of improvement necessitating the demolition of a number of historic houses in the High Street and other parts of the burgh. In February, 1861, the tenement of houses on the south side of the High Street, known as "Cochrane's Innery," and which was situated to the immediate west of the Crown Inn, was taken down preparatory to being rebuilt as an addition to that hostelry. It was in this "innery," then kept as an inn by James Ruickbie, a well-known local poet, that Thomas Campbell slept during his stay in Hawick. The author of "The Pleasures of Hope" at that time was on his return to Scotland from a pedestrian tour among the Cumberland lakes. When on his way, Campbell was overtaken between Moss-paul and Colterscleuch by a heavy shower of rain, which compelled him to seek shelter in the toll bar at the latter place. There he accidentally made the acquaintance of Ruickbie, who, enjoying a day's



fishing in the Teviot, had also been driven to seek shelter under the same hospitable roof. Ruickbie was an enthusiastic worshipper of poetic genius, and during a conversation with the stranger he happened to make a quotation from "The Pleasures of Hope," which had just been recently published. Pleased and grateful that his work should be known in such a remote district, and by a perfect stranger, Campbell, ostensibly with the view of drawing out his newly-made friend, passed some depreciatory remarks on the lines, which instantly called forth a warm and animated defence from Ruickbie. On Campbell making his personality known, Ruickbie, it is needless to say, was overjoyed at the good fortune which had befallen him in making the acquaintance of such a talented bard. The two authors greatly enjoyed each other's society, and walked to Hawick together, Campbell taking up his abode for the night in his friend's house, and Ruickbie was ever afterwards heard to declare that the happiest night in his existence was that which he spent with the author of "The Pleasures of Hope."

In 1862 the British Linen Bank purchased the property at 7 High Street, which, for three generations, had been the residence of the Ruecastle family—a family who played an important part in the history of the burgh, several of them having filled the position of chief magistrate. From the picture which is given in this volume, and which is a reproduction of a photograph taken in 1860, the two shops, it will be seen, were tenanted respectively by Mr William Douglas, saddler, and Mr William Rutherford, watchmaker. In Mr Douglas' window will be observed the white horse which was a conspicuous figure in later years in his window in Cross Wynd. Mr William Rutherford was the father of Mr F. E. Rutherford, watchmaker and jeweller, 81 High Street, whose business was founded in 1763. The Bank also acquired, from Mr Dalglish, bookseller, part of the old adjoining property to the west, which he had, about that time, purchased. At that period the bank was located in premises at 16 High Street, presently belonging to Mr Thomas Brydon, baker, which they had occupied for many years, the adjoining shop being tenanted by Messrs Dicksons & Turnbells, seed



THE RUECASTLE TENEMENT, 7 HIGH STREET, 1690-1861.

merchants. The premises, which belonged to Mr T. MacMillan Scott, of Wauchope, was exposed for public sale, and though the sum of £2850 was offered, the property was withdrawn, but later in the day was sold privately to Messrs Dicksons & Turnbells for £3100. This property, which is a substantial and still fairly modern-like building, was erected about 1764. It was built for Mr James Dickson, who was succeeded in the occupancy of the seed shop by his brother and nephews, partners in the firm of Messrs Archibald Dickson & Sons. The original proprietor's grandson, Mr James Dickson, of Pinnaclehill, fell heir to the property, and at his death it passed into the possession of Mr MacMillan Scott, subject to a life rent to Mr Dickson's widow, who subsequently married the Right Rev. Bishop Terrot. It is worthy of mention that before the building was finished, in 1794, the Cornet's Common-Riding dinner was held in it, the Standard-Bearer on that occasion being the proprietor's son, Archibald.

In the early years of the sixties the old thatched row of tenements at Mill Port was cleared away, and the present row of brick houses erected. For several generations the Mill Port was the rendezvous for the large class of beggars who traversed the country, a number of lodging-houses being there. One of the best known howfs was Jean Renwick's. It is said that with a view to acquiring personal knowledge of the life and habits of this nomad class, the renowned "Christopher North," in his young days, joined a band of travelling gypsies, who, during their sojourn in Hawick, were quartered in a lodging-house in the Mill Port; and it is recorded that Professor Wilson, many years afterwards, when a guest of a gentleman in the district, considerably surprised his host when he informed him where he had once lodged in Hawick. Among such a class who frequented the Mill Port, law and order were not held in great respect, and rows of a more or less serious nature were of comparatively frequent occurrence. In 1814, however, a quarrel took place between a man and wife which had a tragic ending, the poor woman succumbing to the blows, and the man being afterwards tried at Jedburgh and sentenced to death, the execution taking place at Hawick on the 12th May of that year. This

was the last execution which took place in the town, the dread penalty being carried out in the Common Haugh, in presence of a great crowd of spectators. About ten o'clock that morning the prisoner was taken out of Jedburgh Prison, and under an escort of the Roxburghshire Yeomanry was conveyed in a cart to Hawick. The procession was met near the town by the magistrates and the Rev. Mr Arkle, parish minister, who was assisted by the Rev. Mr Finlayson, and the Rev. Mr Hamilton. Upon arrival the prisoner, at his own request, was permitted to walk along with the clergymen to the Town Hall, where he remained with them for about half-an-hour in acts of devotion. From there he was taken in the cart to the scaffold, a dead march being played by the band of the Roxburghshire Militia, two companies of that regiment lining the way from the bridge over the Teviot to the place of execution. After the condemned man had ascended the scaffold along with the Sheriffs, the magistrates, and clergymen, the hymn, "The hour of my departure's come," was sung, an impressive prayer following by the Rev. Mr Arkle. Permission having been given the prisoner to address the spectators, he stepped forward, and in a firm voice warned them all to beware of drink and to avoid giving way to passion. He then ascended the steps to the drop in great firmness, and, having expressed his thanks for the attention he had been shown by the Sheriffs and magistrates, prayed devoutly for a few minutes. Then at a given signal the bolt was drawn, and, amidst the hush of the assembled multitude, he was launched into eternity. The Mill Port murder and its impressive sequel was long remembered by the inhabitants.

In the summer of 1863 one of the most ancient houses in the town had to be demolished in order to make room for the new Corn Exchange. This was the old tenement belonging to Mr Robert Kedie, baker, and situated on the west side of the Slitrig, opposite Elliot's mill. The house was understood to be 120 years old, and had been occupied by four generations of the Kedie family. It stood with its gable to the water, and succeeded a more ancient structure, which stood behind it, parallel with the Slitrig, and of which a portion of the wall still



remained. In the two houses seven generations of Mr Kedie's family had resided. It is recorded that on the occasion of the great Hawick Flood of 5th August, 1767, a group of fourteen persons had assembled on the top of the Auld Brig, and, whilst they eagerly watched the flood below, forgot their position until they were completely cut off by the waters which had begun to flow deep and strong along each side of the bridge. A ladder thrown from one of the windows of Kedie's house to the parapet rescued twelve of the number, but two perished in trusting to a rope thrown from the Kirk steps. It is said that when the flood subsided, Mr John Kedie found a large trout and fat hare lying on his hearthstone, where they had been left by the receding waters. Mr Kedie's old house had also interesting associations with the great Dr Chalmers, that renowned minister having lodged there during the period he was assistant at Cavers. One of the upstairs rooms, to the west, was well remembered as Dr Chalmers' bedroom, and while the work of demolition was in progress, a great many visitors inspected the room which had become so intimately identified with that eminent divine.

In June, 1864, one of the oldest houses in the town was taken down in order that a modern building might be erected on its site, that was the dwelling-house at 53 High Street, belonging to Mr Walter Henderson, farmer. It was a low thatched-roof tenement with small windows and diminutive Norman-arched close. The ground floor was arched and dimly lighted, and in the centre of the arch was a square aperture covered with a large flagstone which was understood to have been at one time the only means of access to the floor above. The walls of the building were of great thickness, and they had apparently been built in turbulent times with the view of withstanding any siege to which the town might be subjected by marauding bands. The only example still to be seen in Hawick of a bastile house is that in the adjoining premises at 51 High Street, belonging to Mr John Turnbull, wine merchant.



THE HIGH STREET (LOOKING EAST).

## THE HOSIERY TRADE.

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THE hosiery trade was commenced in Hawick in 1771 by Bailie John Hardie, and for nearly a century and a half it has furnished employment for a very large section of the community. Since the first stocking-frame was erected in our midst, remarkable developments have taken place in the trade, but the Hawick manufacturers have, on the whole, kept abreast with the times, and to-day, throughout the whole civilised world, "Hawick-made hosiery" is synonymous for all that is best in woollen underwear.

The dawn of 1860 found the trade in a somewhat slightly depressed condition, due, in some measure, to the hosiery manufacturers in Leicester and Nottingham adopting improved frames, which, it was alleged by some of the Hawick manufacturers, were regarded with suspicion by certain sections of their workmen. As a consequence they felt that they were being somewhat handicapped by their English competitors. Speaking at a New Year soiree in 1860, Mr Walter Wilson said he could remember very well when it was an admitted fact that there were 1200 stockingmakers at work in Hawick, whereas there were then, he was told, only 800 employed. A decrease of one-third in the machinery employed surely, he thought, showed that there was a falling off in the quantity of work produced, and the reason for this simply was, that the manufacturers in England were taking advantage of certain improved machines on the market which enabled them to excel in some classes of goods. In his opinion it was quite clear that, if the Hawick manufacturers were determined to maintain their old standing, they were required, also, to take advantage of these improvements. Most of them seemed willing to do so,

but, unfortunately, their advances in that direction were, he was afraid, not likely to be met in a proper spirit by the great body of the operatives. That was to him a matter of great regret, for master and workmen, he considered, ought to combine in adopting improvements in the production of goods, if they were anxious to keep to the front. He could assure his workmen that when he desired to adopt the latest improvements, and keep in line with his rivals in the south, he had no wish to lower wages, but rather to make certain of raising them.

That Mr Wilson's progressive spirit was not shared in by all the manufacturers in Hawick was strikingly shown by the fact that in giving evidence before a Parliamentary Commission a year or two later, a partner of one of the largest firms in town said, "We mean to use hand frames, because we see no advantage in power, and machinery is very apt to get out of order." In the light of present day industrial development, it is rather amusing to read such a statement, made with all seriousness by a manufacturer.

About this period a very considerable number of stocking-frames were worked in private houses, while throughout the town there were a great many small stocking-shops accommodating from six to twelve frames. In these shops no regular working hours were recognised, the men, towards the end of the week, often working into the early hours of the morning in order to make up for the time wasted in the beginning. Some of the larger shops opened as early as 5 a.m. in the summer months, and did not close till eight o'clock in the evening; in the winter the hours were from 6 a.m. till 9 p.m. On Saturdays the closing hour was generally two o'clock. None of the stockingmakers, however, worked the full hours the shops were open, for, so far as hours of labour were concerned, they were their own masters, coming and going as they pleased, and taking a day or an afternoon off whenever they felt inclined. They knew nothing of the stringent factory regulations of the present day, though, undoubtedly, it would have been to the advantage of a great many had they been subjected to a little more control and supervision. On the Mondays—except, perhaps, on the Common-Riding week—only about one-half of the men



were to be found on their frames. A considerable number were still awaiting on the Tuesdays, but as the end of the week approached few vacancies were to be seen. After a "big time" it was nothing uncommon for them to indulge in a week's "fuddle," and these little failings on the part of the men had to be complacently overlooked by the masters. As a side-light into the inconvenience which employers were occasionally put by their workmen absenting themselves in this way, the following remarks, made by Mr Walter Wilson at the Burgh Licensing Court in May, 1860, may be interesting at the present day. A licence-holder—Mr Thomas Laidlaw—was applying for a transfer of his public-house licence from 6 High Street to premises on the opposite side of the street, and a petition against the transfer, from neighbouring owners and occupiers was presented to the Court. In the course of the discussion Mr Wilson said:—"It is my opinion this licence should not be granted. As an employer of workmen in the town I have often been told when a man is amissing that he would be found drinking in Laidlaw's. I have not made a practice of sending for them; I prefer to send the drum. (Slight hissing.) I will do so again, notwithstanding the hiss, and I know that it has been the means of doing the men good." The practice of sending the town's drummer round for an absent workman was rather a novel method of announcing to all and sundry that the delinquent was "drinking." Taken as a whole, however, the stockingmakers of that period were an intelligent and industrious class of workmen; many of them were well-read, and the great majority followed local and national questions with the keenest interest. They were ardent politicians, and strong supporters of the movement for reform, while not a few were able and effective platform speakers.

In those days there were no Education Acts, and compulsory attendance of children at school was considered outside the range of practical politics. As a consequence, the attendance of many children was very irregular, while a good few may be said to have received no education at all. Large numbers were sent to work at a very early age, and many boys commenced to work



THE MID ROW (LOOKING TOWARDS THE LOAN).

on the frames when they were twelve years of age, some even starting as early as ten. A great many boys and girls found employment in connection with the hosiery trade, as winders, and in private houses, where there were frames, children as young as seven years had to do the winding which was necessary.

In connection with the Parliamentary Commission, previously referred to, the evidence of a number of winders, boys and girls, was taken, and from this much insight is obtained with regard to child labour at that time. Bessie Sanderson, aged 13, said that in the stocking-shop in which she was employed as a winder there were, beside herself, three girls, and six boys. She commenced work at 7 a.m., having previously had her breakfast, and left off work at 6 p.m., afterwards seaming at home till about nine o'clock. She had dinner between two and three o'clock. She was a winder for her father and two other men. The two men sometimes gave her one shilling. The youngest girl in the shop was about eight years old; she came at 7 a.m. and worked till half-past nine, when she went to the school till 4 p.m. She came to the shop, however, at her meal-time—from one till two—and returned again about five o'clock and worked till the shop closed. Witness was sometimes very tired, mostly in the arms. Colin Rae, aged 11, was another witness. He said he was winder for six men. In the summer he commenced between 6 and 7 a.m., and left at 8 p.m.; in winter he came at 6 a.m. and stayed till 9 p.m. Was away about three-quarters of an hour, twice a day, for meals, and earned between 3/ and 4/ a week. He began winding at eight years of age at a shop in which there were ten frames, and he and another boy had to do all the winding there. He worked the same hours there as he did at present, but sometimes stayed till ten o'clock on Thursday and Friday nights. He was not very tired at his work. He could read and write; he learned when he was "a little wee callant." Another boy, 11 years of age, stated that when he went home at night he learned some lessons and read the Bible, but could not do so without spelling. Robert Bell, aged 12, deponed that he commenced winding for his mother, at home, when about seven

years of age, and went to a stocking-shop when about ten. He could not get out of the shop very long as he had to keep the men in yarn. May Bell, aged 7, said she winded her father's yarn in the stocking-shop; when she was at home she had to keep the bairns. David Murray, aged 14, said he had been at work on a stocking-frame for four years, and worked about fifteen hours a day. He went for breakfast from nine till ten, and for dinner from two till three. He got his tea "carried." He did not go home much on a Friday; some in the shop never went home at all on the Friday. He made about 10 or 11/ a week, but 3/ came off for rent, seaming, etc.

The Rev. J. R. Dakers, St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church, also gave evidence before the Commission with respect to the effect which the employment of children as winders had upon their education. He said he had been ten years a minister in Hawick, and the town had been, of late, particularly prosperous. At St Cuthbert's School the boys attended pretty regularly up to nine years of age, but after that they became irregular in their attendance. The majority of them left school before they were eleven. Girls did not stay much longer. After they were seven or eight years of age boys began to wind for hosiery frames, and he had seen girls seaming at about the same age. On Fridays many girls were kept away for seaming. With those children who did attend school a common reason given by them for not having learned their home lessons was that they had either been winding or seaming. Owing to these causes the number of people who grew up with an imperfect knowledge of reading, and still more so of writing, was very great. Another worse objection was that the morals of these young children got corrupted by the conversation and habits of the men amongst whom they worked. He noticed a marked difference for the worse in their behaviour as soon as ever they began to work, and an unwillingness to submit to discipline, owing to the freedom which they got. Rev. Mr Dakers' evidence was fully corroborated by Mr Jacob Jay, headmaster of the school, who added that the children were taken away to work in the mills in busy times, even though they were not thirteen years of age.



Though there were no women employed on frames in the stocking-shops, there were between sixty and seventy so engaged in private houses, while the apprentices in the various shops numbered about a hundred. At this time Messrs William Laidlaw & Sons manufactured hosiery as well as tweeds, as did also Messrs William Watson & Sons. The latter subsequently disposed of their hosiery department to their manager, Mr George Hogg, while the former sold off their frames in 1865. With so many hand-frames in town, the framesmith's business was a large and prosperous one, and Mr Alexander Goold, Mr William Langton, and others employed a considerable number of workmen.



THE OAK TREE, NEW ROAD.

A Familiar Landmark.

## THE BURGESS ROLL.

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WITH the introduction of the Police Improvement Act, in 1861, the old burgesses of the town ceased to exist as a corporate body. At one time the entrance fee for admission as a burgess was £4, but sons and sons-in-law of burgesses were admitted at a reduced fee. The action of the Town Council in 1859 in lowering the fee to 5s, at which sum the last dozen on the roll were admitted, gave rise to a good deal of dissatisfaction, and an action was raised in the Court of Session, to have this and some other Acts of the Council reduced. The oath taken by each burgess was as follows:—“I promise and swear I shall be a true and faithful Burgess of the Burgh of Hawick. That I shall defend the liberties thereof in all time coming with my body, goods, and gear; be obedient to the Magistrates and their successors in office; that I shall give the Bailies and Council of the Burgh the best advice I can when they ask it of me. I shall conceal that which they impart to me. I shall colour no man's goods under colour of my own, as I shall answer to God. So help me God.” This is still the oath which is administered to distinguished personages who are made honorary burgesses of the town.

In 1770 the number of burgesses was 407. Houses and stables in those days were generally covered with thatch and divots which required to be frequently renewed, and these divots the burgesses got from the Common without limitation, few, it is mentioned in the records of the period, taking less than 1000 turfs a year. Burgesses had also the privilege of grazing their cows on the Town's Common, and it was by a vote of the burgesses that the two magistrates of the burgh were chosen. At one time the election of the Town Clerk also

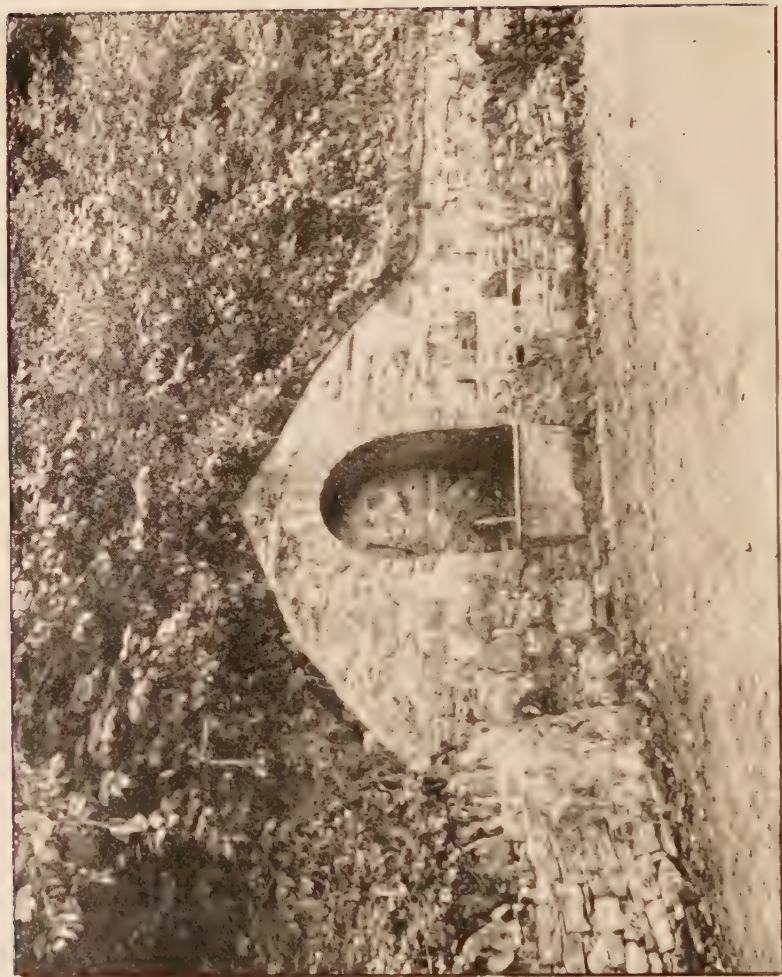
lay with the burgesses, though all other public appointments were made by the Town Council. The last election of magistrates by the burgesses took place on Friday, 11th October, 1861, those chosen on that occasion only holding office for a month, as the new Police Act came into operation the following month. The leet adopted by the Town Council for the magistracy was—Bailie Waugh, Mr Thomas Purdom, Mr George Wilson, Mr John Paterson, Mr James Turnbull, and Mr William Munro. Bailie Waugh and Mr Thomas Purdom headed the poll, and were thereupon declared duly elected to the offices of senior and junior magistrate respectively. They were then summoned to attend a meeting of the Town Council, and, having intimated their acceptance of office, the oath was administered by Bailie Fraser, the retiring magistrate, who then vacated the chair in favour of Bailie Waugh. The magistrates' annual dinner was, on this occasion, dispensed with, but the newly-elected magistrates, Bailie Fraser, the retiring magistrate, and a number of the councillors met in the evening, in the Crown Hotel, when several appropriate toasts were honoured.

For generations the roll of Burgesses was called at the Ca' Knowe at the Common-Riding, the penalty for non-attendance being a fine of ten pounds Scots. In 1766, the year before the division of the Common, five representative Burgesses were appointed to perambulate and define the boundaries of the burgh's land, these being, William Aitken, carrier, 80 years of age; John Aitken, cooper, 70 years of age; Robert Crozier, 50 years of age; James Miller, 40 years of age, and William Oliver, 34 years of age. These men of varying ages were understood to be all well acquainted with the marches of the Common, and when the case was before the Court of Session in 1766, for the division of the Common at the instance of the agents of the Duke of Buccleuch, William Aitken, the oldest of the party, was called as a witness, and he testified that every year, at the Common-Riding, the Burgesses of Hawick had to answer to their names as they were called at the Ca' Knowe, by the Town Clerk. For many years after the division of the Common the roll continued to be called at the Ca' Knowe.



The following is a list of the Burgesses of Hawick in 1860, and the dates of their admission to the roll:—

|                                      |     |                       |
|--------------------------------------|-----|-----------------------|
| Robert Purdom, farmer, ...           | ... | 8th October, 1807.    |
| Peter Wilson, hosier, ...            | ... | 28th January, 1809.   |
| William Laidlaw, hosier, ...         | ... | ... 17th June, 1811.  |
| Robert Kedie, baker, ...             | ... | 7th October, 1813.    |
| William Scott, flesher, ...          | ... | 12th October, 1815.   |
| Walter Douglas, tailor, ...          | ... | 1815.                 |
| Lancelot Armstrong, clogger, ...     | ... | 19th January, 1816.   |
| Francis Paisley, joiner, ...         | ... | 27th March, 1818.     |
| Robert Laidlaw, farmer, ...          | ... | ... 25th May, 1818.   |
| John Thorburn, farmer, ...           | ... | 8th October, 1818.    |
| Andrew Graham, merchant, ...         | ... | 12th October, 1820.   |
| Robert Anderson, writer, ...         | ... | 13th October, 1820.   |
| Andrew Irvine, merchant, ...         | ... | 11th July, 1821.      |
| James Wilson, writer, ...            | ... | 13th October, 1825.   |
| Charles Hessel, ...                  | ... | 1825.                 |
| Andrew Oliver, labourer, ...         | ... | ... 26th May, 1826.   |
| Thomas Leithead, gardener, ...       | ... | ... 18th May, 1827.   |
| Henry Richardson, farmer, ...        | ... | 1827.                 |
| J. Turnbull, merchant, ...           | ... | ... 21st May, 1830.   |
| John Richardson, spinner, ...        | ... | ... 22nd May, 1832.   |
| W. Leithead, stockingmaker, ...      | ... | ... 25th May, 1832.   |
| Robert Newall, stockingmaker, ...    | ... | 8th October, 1835.    |
| W. Turnbull, tobacconist, ...        | ... | 11th October, 1838.   |
| W. Laidlaw, junr., manufacturer, ... | ... | 1838.                 |
| John F. Wilson, skinner, ...         | ... | 1838.                 |
| Robert Fraser, merchant, ...         | ... | 12th October, 1838.   |
| Robert Cavers, grocer, ...           | ... | 10th October, 1839.   |
| J. Paterson, manufacturer, ...       | ... | 1839.                 |
| John Lamb, needlemaker, ...          | ... | 8th October, 1840.    |
| William White, shoemaker, ...        | ... | 1840.                 |
| Charles Scott, shoemaker, ...        | ... | 1840.                 |
| James Temple, joiner, ...            | ... | 1840.                 |
| Andrew Waugh, tailor, ...            | ... | 1840.                 |
| Robert Michie, currier, ...          | ... | 1840.                 |
| William Kedie, merchant, ...         | ... | 24th September, 1841. |
| Andrew Blyth, labourer, ...          | ... | 1841.                 |
| Richard Purdom, joiner, ...          | ... | 1841.                 |
| John Laing, draper, ...              | ... | 1841.                 |
| John Eckford, grocer, ...            | ... | 1841.                 |
| David S. Park, grocer, ...           | ... | 4th October, 1841.    |



THE PIPEHEUGH WELL, NEW ROAD.

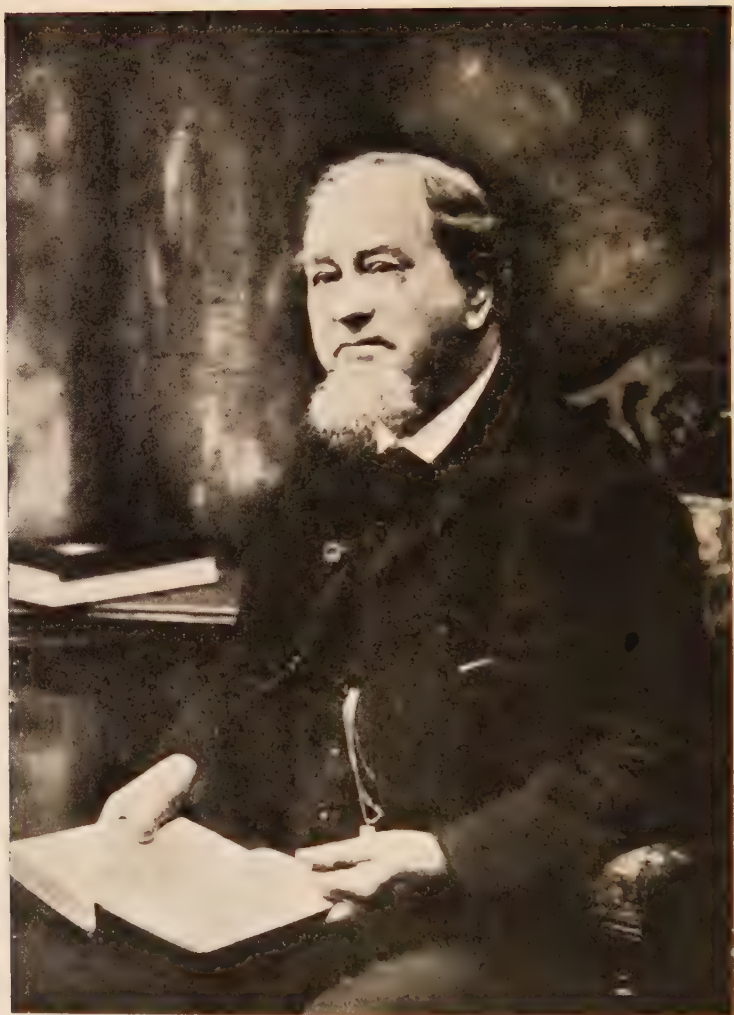
|                                  |     |                       |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----------------------|
| R. Burnet, shoemaker, ...        | ... | 13th October, 1841.   |
| John Fenwick, vintner, ...       | ... | 10th December, 1841.  |
| J. Wintrup, shoemaker, ...       | ... | , 1841.               |
| Thomas Young, draper, ...        | ... | , 1841.               |
| James Smith, grocer, ...         | ... | 24th January, 1842.   |
| Robert Thomson, factor, ...      | ... | , 1842.               |
| W. Purvis, whipmaker, ...        | ... | , 1842.               |
| J. Dalgleish, bookseller, ...    | ... | 31st January, 1842.   |
| J. D. Kennedy, bookseller, ...   | ... | , 1842.               |
| W. Davidson, plasterer, ...      | ... | 11th March, 1842.     |
| George Tait, mason, ...          | ... | , 1842.               |
| A. Borthwick, merchant, ...      | ... | 13th October, 1842.   |
| Andrew Bowie, blacksmith, ...    | ... | , 1842.               |
| George Wilson, manufacturer, ... | ... | 25th May, 1843.       |
| John Riddle, tailor, ...         | ... | 27th September, 1844. |
| James Shiel, innkeeper, ...      | ... | , 1844.               |
| William Blake, labourer, ...     | ... | 21st May, 1845.       |
| William Burns, tailor, ...       | ... | 24th September, 1845. |
| W. Rutherford, watchmaker, ...   | ... | , 1845.               |
| George Blaikie, ...              | ... | , 1845.               |
| Robert Leck, auctioneer, ...     | ... | 9th October, 1845.    |
| George Paterson, baker, ...      | ... | , 1845.               |
| William Elliot, joiner, ...      | ... | 30th September, 1846. |
| W. Munro, rope manufacturer, ... | ... | 1st July, 1846.       |
| Robert Henderson, farmer, ...    | ... | 14th May, 1847.       |
| James Nichol, farmer, ...        | ... | 26th May, 1847.       |
| James Hessel, baker, ...         | ... | 23rd September, 1847. |
| George T. Pringle, grocer, ...   | ... | 24th May, 1848.       |
| James Anderson, gardener, ...    | ... | , 1848.               |
| Francis Kyle, farmer, ...        | ... | 12th October, 1848.   |
| James Harkness, mason, ...       | ... | 19th February, 1849.  |
| John Hobkirk, joiner, ...        | ... | , 1849.               |
| Thomas Brunton, joiner, ...      | ... | 6th June, 1849.       |
| William Young, baker, ...        | ... | 11th October, 1849.   |
| William Nesbit flesher, ...      | ... | , 1849.               |
| Alexander Smart, baker, ...      | ... | , 1849.               |
| Charles Scott, weaver, ...       | ... | , 1849.               |
| John Riddle, junr., tailor, ...  | ... | 27th May, 1850.       |
| George Turnbull, merchant, ...   | ... | , 1850.               |
| George Waldie, farmer, ...       | ... | 21st June, 1850.      |
| John H. Fraser, draper, ...      | ... | 26th September, 1850. |
| George H. Fraser, draper, ...    | ... | , 1850.               |
| Andrew Wilson, grocer, ...       | ... | , 1850.               |
| George Davies, flesher, ...      | ... | , 1850.               |

|                                     |                         |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| William Turner, grocer,             | 8th October, 1850.      |
| George Hobkirk, corn merchant,      | 10th October, 1850.     |
| Walter Wilson, baker, ...           | .. 1850.                |
| R. Macdonald, merchant,             | .. 1850.                |
| William Blyth, labourer,            | ... 23rd May, 1851.     |
| William Burnet, shoemaker,          | ... 26th May, 1851.     |
| John Wear, woollorter, ...          | .. 1851.                |
| W. B. Notman, clerk, ...            | .. 23rd July, 1851.     |
| George Rule, dyer, ...              | .. 1851.                |
| T. Graham, watchmaker,              | ... 25th July, 1851.    |
| J. Melrose, woollorter, ...         | .. 26th July, 1851.     |
| George Scott, gunsmith, ...         | .. 30th July, 1851.     |
| W. Henderson, farmer, ...           | 18th August, 1851.      |
| W. Dickson, seed merchant,          | 9th October, 1851.      |
| James Turnbull, draper, ...         | 13th October, 1851.     |
| William Douglas, saddler,           | .. 14th May, 1852.      |
| John Douglas, surgeon, ...          | .. 2nd June, 1852.      |
| Robert Milligan, joiner, ...        | 16th August, 1852.      |
| Thomas Purdom, banker,              | .. 7th October, 1852.   |
| Thomas Hunter, farmer, ...          | .. 29th April, 1853.    |
| P. Connell, merchant, ...           | .. 20th May, 1853.      |
| Thomas Turnbull, quarrier,          | ... 25th May, 1853.     |
| Andrew Oliver, tobaccoist,          | ... 29th July, 1853.    |
| John Scott, foreman, ...            | .. 1853.                |
| John Grant, doctor of medicine, ... | .. 30th May, 1854.      |
| John Martin, joiner, ...            | 26th October, 1854.     |
| Alexander Michie, currier, ...      | 12th October, 1854.     |
| W. Irvine, commercial traveller,    | 31st December, 1855.    |
| John Aitken, farmer, ...            | .. 23rd May, 1856.      |
| James Oliver, accountant,           | .. 10th June, 1856.     |
| W. Wilson, wool merchant,           | .. 10th July, 1856.     |
| William Wood, draper, ...           | 26th September, 1856.   |
| Andrew Kennedy, painter,            | .. 1856.                |
| Andrew Grierson, baker,             | .. 9th October, 1856.   |
| Robert Deans, printer, ...          | .. 1856.                |
| P. Laidlaw, manufacturer,           | .. 13th October, 1856.  |
| Charles Kirk, writer, ...           | .. 17th November, 1856. |
| John Davidson, plasterer,           | .. 21st May, 1857.      |
| David Hall, rag merchant,           | 15th September, 1857.   |
| David Shiel, grocer, ...            | 2nd October, 1857.      |
| Frederick Deiner, joiner,           | .. 17th May, 1858.      |
| Thomas Fleming, quarrier,           | .. 7th June, 1858.      |
| James Richardson, grocer,           | .. 18th June, 1858.     |
| Alexander Michie, skinner,          | .. 7th October, 1858.   |



|                                       |     |                      |       |
|---------------------------------------|-----|----------------------|-------|
| John Laing, shoemaker, ...            | ... | „                    | 1858. |
| J. Douglas, posting-master, ...       | ... | 6th January, 1859.   |       |
| James Scott, innkeeper, ...           | ... | „                    | 1859. |
| Anthony Boiston, innkeeper, ...       | ... | 18th February, 1859. |       |
| James Lawrie, stockingmaker, ...      | ... | 18th April, 1859.    |       |
| George Balmer, weaver, ...            | ... | „                    | 1859. |
| R. Hardie, stockingmaker, ...         | ... | „                    | 1859. |
| James Douglas, clerk, ...             | ... | „                    | 1859. |
| J. Kyle, warehouseman, ...            | ... | „                    | 1859. |
| George Deans, flesher, ...            | ... | „                    | 1859. |
| John Murray, slater, ...              | ... | „                    | 1859. |
| John Turnbull, skinner, ...           | ... | „                    | 1859. |
| John Hall, spinner, ...               | ... | „                    | 1859. |
| W. Kyle, power-loom manufacturer, ... | ... | „                    | 1859. |
| Andrew Richardson, foreman, ...       | ... | „                    | 1859. |
| John Jackson, clogger, ...            | ... | ... 21st June, 1859. |       |

So far as can be ascertained there are only two of the burgesses in the foregoing list alive, Mr William Burnet, 30 Drumlanrig Square, and Mr Peter Laidlaw, Galabrae.



Mr WILLIAM BURNET, 30 DRUMLANRIG SQUARE,  
the last surviving member of the "eternal" Council,  
and one of the two last surviving Burgesses.

## NEW POLICE ACT AND LIST OF VOTERS.

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**A**T the beginning of the sixties the burning question among the inhabitants was municipal reform. The old Town Council had served its day and generation, and changes and improvements in the town were urgently called for. These could only be secured and carried out by a local authority entrusted with new and enlarged rating powers, and by a board more representative of the general body of citizens than the old Council made any pretence of being. The Council numbered thirty-one, consisting of two magistrates, elected annually by the burgesses from a leet of six drawn up by the Council; fifteen councillors elected by the sitting members of that body; and fourteen representatives from the seven incorporated trades of the town, viz., weavers, hammermen, bakers, skimmers, shoemakers, tailors and fleshers. From the fact that the members of the Council were in the habit of re-electing each other, that body became popularly known as the "eternal" Council. The quarter-masters, as the trades representatives were termed, were also the nominees of very small bodies, it being no uncommon thing for only half-a-dozen members being present when the representatives were elected; in fact, there are authenticated instances on record when only two members have attended and proceeded to elect each other.

With such a condition of matters existing it was natural that there should be a steadily growing desire for a change to more modern methods of conducting the affairs of the burgh. Towards this end a public meeting of householders of £10 and upwards was held in the Town Hall on the evening of Tuesday, 26th June, 1860, when about

fifty persons attended, the number of householders at that period, paying rentals of £10 and over, being 261 in Hawick, and 52 in Wilton. Bailie Purdom presided over the gathering, and explained the provisions of the Police Act of 1850, which it was suggested should be adopted. Mr William Norman Kennedy, inspector of poor, submitted a return of the rentals and ratepayers in the parish of Hawick, showing that the rental of the parish, exclusive of the landward portion, was £17,534, and the number of householders, with rents under £4, was nearly 900. The number at £4 and under £5, was 250, there being thus a total of 1150 householders, whose police rates under the Act would be payable by the landlords. After considerable discussion the feeling of those present was tested when thirty voted in favour of adopting the Act, one was against, and seventeen declined to commit themselves one way or the other. It was then agreed that a full canvass of the householders should be made, with the view of ascertaining their opinions before the necessary statutory meeting for the purpose of agreeing to adopt the Act was convened. No time was lost in carrying this out, and the result was as follows:—Hawick parish—in favour of adopting the Act, 112; opposed to its adoption, 54; expressed themselves as neutral, 34; declined to give any opinion, 44. There were 17 who were not seen owing to absence from home and other causes. Wilton parish—favourable to, 10; opposed to, 13; neutral, 13; no opinion, 2; not seen, 5. Following up the canvass a public meeting of the £10 householders, called by the Magistrates, was held in the Town Hall on the evening of Tuesday, 28th August, when Bailie Purdom presided over a fairly large and representative attendance. The purpose of the meeting was to consider the result of the canvass with the view of adopting the Act, and also to consider the propriety of applying to Parliament for a special Act to meet the peculiar circumstances of the Burgh, as regarded its municipal and police institutions.

Mr Walter Pringle, hosiery manufacturer, gave a well reasoned and able speech, and concluded by moving the following very exhaustive resolution:—



That this meeting having observed the working of the constitution of the Burgh in regard to the mode of electing magistrates, life councillors, and quarter-masters, as well as the terms of admission and privileges of burgesses, and having experienced the inconveniences arising from the circumscribed boundaries of the Burgh, whereby a considerable portion of the town is placed beyond the jurisdiction of the magistrates, and the inhabitants living therein are thus disqualified from holding any municipal office or employment, is of opinion that its provisions are not now adapted to the requirements of the community, and ought to be altered and improved; but, considering that any improvement of which the constitution might be susceptible at the hands of the Council themselves could possess no obligatory force, and would subserve its ends only when the parties interested chose to acquiesce in its operation, this meeting is further of opinion that any such improvement or self-reform would fail adequately to remedy the anomalies and defects of the existing constitution, and that, consequently, the circumstances justify a more radical and authoritative remedy than the Council can themselves supply; and, having reference to the public meeting lately held to consider the expediency of adopting the new Police Act, as a means of supplying, to some extent, the defects of the Burgh constitution, and to the expressed opinion of the £10 householders, as ascertained by the late canvass, this meeting is further of opinion that, while the results of that canvass, judged by former experience, leave it somewhat doubtful whether the Police Act would be adopted by the statutory majority of voters, the Act itself, even if adopted, would fail to answer to the requirements of the town, for, while it contains many valuable provisions, and would obviate some of the inconveniences felt at present, it would, at the same time, introduce evils peculiar to itself, and leave all the defects and anomalies of the Burgh's constitution exactly as they exist at present, and especially when this meeting considers that the adoption of the new Police Act would perpetuate the existence of two separate Boards, as at present, for municipal and police purposes, and, above all, create the anomaly of the town having five magistrates with conflicting jurisdiction, the meeting is of opinion that, instead of proceeding to amend the present constitution of the Burgh, or to supplement its defects by an auxiliary Police Act, it would be wiser now, and prove more satisfactory in the end, to obtain a special Act of Parliament for extending the boundaries and providing for all the municipal and police purposes of the town; and, that this meeting, influenced by these views, does thereby resolve to recommend the Town Council to apply in the ensuing session of Parliament for such special Act accordingly.



EX-PROVOST FRASER'S BUSINESS PREMISES, 15 HIGH STREET.

Mr Thomas Laidlaw, manufacturer, in seconding the resolution, submitted that it was high time the last vestige of feudalism should be swept away in respect to the management of the affairs of the Burgh, and considered that it was indeed remarkable that the public men of Hawick, who were otherwise so enterprising, should have so long submitted to such an anomalous system of municipal government. It was not to be supposed that a constitution framed in the 15th century for a small and obscure village would be at all adequate to the requirements of a town like Hawick of that day. After some discussion this resolution was carried by a large majority, and it was arranged that a deputation should lay the resolution before the Town Council at their first meeting, and recommend, if need be, the views expressed therein.

At a meeting of the Council on Wednesday, 12th September, the resolution was duly presented, and by a majority of 11 to 3 a motion by Bailie Purdom was adopted, agreeing to apply to Parliament for a Special Act for the extension of the boundaries of the burgh, and for the better regulating of its municipal and police affairs, a committee consisting of six councillors and six residents "of experience and wisdom" to be appointed to adjust the Bill, which, after being formally drawn up by a Parliamentary solicitor, might be laid before a public meeting of the inhabitants. At a subsequent meeting the following were appointed to represent the Council on the committee:—Bailies Purdom and Fraser, and Councillors George Wilson, Robert Anderson, John Paterson, and Frederick Diener. The result of the Committee's work was that at a meeting of the Council on Tuesday, 18th October, a copy of the proposed Special Act was laid on the table, and on the following evening a public meeting was held in the Town Hall to consider the same previous to its being lodged in the Private Bill Office. The meeting was very largely attended, and the proceedings, which lasted nearly three hours, were of an animated nature. The clauses of the Bill were gone over seriatim, and a number of amendments made, after which the opinion was expressed that too little time had been allowed the public to consider the Bill in all its bearings. Mr Andrew

Wilson then moved that the Bill should be shelved in the meantime, Mr William Crichton, who seconded Mr Wilson's motion, remarking that a delay of one or two years was of little consequence if they could secure a Bill fully considered and approved of by the public at large. In reply, Bailie Purdom and others pointed out that it was absolutely necessary that the Bill should be lodged by Saturday, if it was to be passed next session, but that there would still be an opportunity given the ratepayers of making alterations in details of the Bill. Mr John Paterson, seconded by Mr J. A. H. Murray, then moved, as an amendment, that the Bill should be lodged on Saturday, and on a show of hands being taken the Chairman declared Mr Wilson's motion carried, a decision which was received with much cheering and jubilation by Mr Wilson's supporters.

This unexpected result threw the Council into a quandary, and a special meeting was hastily convened the following day, in order to consider what steps should be taken in view of the adverse public vote. After the situation had been carefully considered, and adequately discussed, the following motion, proposed by Mr George Wilson, was unanimously approved of:—"That the Council recommend the Committee to lodge the Bill and get fifty copies printed and circulated among the members of Council and inhabitants, and that the Chief Magistrate be asked to call a meeting of Council, and a meeting of proprietors and householders at three days' notice, not sooner than three, and not later than four weeks after such circulation, and the Council instruct the Committee to give full effect to any vote that the Council and public meeting, duly called, may decide upon."

In accordance with this resolution the Bill was duly lodged and copies printed and circulated in town, and a public meeting of the proprietors and householders of Hawick and Wilton, "to afford the Committee appointed to revise the Police and Improvement Bill an opportunity of submitting the same as revised and amended, for approval," was held in the Town Hall on the evening of Tuesday, 20th January, 1861. There was a considerable opposition to the Bill, and during the day the town crier, escorted by "the drums and fifes," paraded



the town calling upon "all the independent householders of Hawick to defend their rights and Common, their water privileges, and, above all, their pockets," and to attend the meeting. As a result the hall was filled long before the hour for commencing the proceedings, and a large number of persons were unable to obtain admittance. Bailie Fraser occupied the chair, and Mr John Paterson proposed that the meeting should be adjourned till the following evening, when he could promise the use of one of the flats of Messrs Watson's new mill. The Chairman said it was necessary, in the first instance, to constitute the meeting, which was done by reading the announcement calling it. Mr Thomas Purdom, having read the Committee's report on the Bill, the Chairman, amidst considerable noise, said he was prepared to take advantage of Mr Paterson's offer, an announcement which was received with cheers, hisses, and groans. After some wrangling, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned till the following Saturday afternoon at three o'clock, and, amidst a great deal of uproar he left the bench, and, along with several members of Committee and others, retired from the meeting. The majority of those present, however, remained, and ultimately, Mr William Young, baker, was moved to the chair. After some hesitation he agreed to accept the position, in order that the meeting might have an opportunity of hearing a report from some of the Committee. Subsequently, after more controversy, Mr Adam Easton, one of the Committee, said it was only after a good deal of labour and time they had agreed to the report which had been read by Mr Purdom. So far as his experience went he believed that the Bill imposed lower assessments than any Bill of the same kind in Scotland, and gave a lower suffrage than any other in Scotland. There was only one burgh in Scotland which had a suffrage under £10, and their Bill gave a £4 suffrage. A number of speakers made an endeavour to discuss the Bill, but the noise was so great that they could not be heard, and Mr Young vacating the chair, the meeting broke up in disorder.

The adjourned public meeting was accordingly held on the afternoon of Saturday, 2nd February, in Messrs William Watson & Sons' large



Mr PETER LAIDLAW, GALABRAE,  
the last surviving member of the first "reformed" Council,  
and one of the two last surviving Burgesses.

new mill at Dangerfield, when there was a full attendance of landlords and tenants, besides a good many of the general public—from 1000 to 1200 persons being present. Bailie Fraser, who was called to the chair, said they had met to consider a most important matter, and he was extremely sorry that there had been such a disorderly meeting in the Town Hall on the previous Tuesday evening—a meeting such as no one who had regard for the character of the community would like to see again. At one time he was proud to boast of the intelligence of the inhabitants of Hawick, but he was bound now to state his opinion that numbers of those present at the meeting did not behave at all in the way expected of members of an intelligent community. No person who wished the discussion to be fairly conducted and the decision to be fairly taken, would say that it would have been proper to go on with the business of the meeting on Tuesday evening, when there were as many unable to get into the room who wished to take part in the proceedings, as there were inside. There was, therefore, no other course but to adjourn the meeting and take advantage of the offer of a larger room to hold it in. For doing this he (the Chairman) had had the honour of being very well hissed, which, however, did not affect him very much. He trusted that all present that afternoon would assist in having the Bill discussed, and if any information was desired, the members of the Committee present would be ready to answer questions.

A prolonged discussion took place between the supporters and opponents of the Bill, and motions and counter-motions were tabled. Mr Adam Easton moved that the Bill be proceeded with, as amended by the Committee, and this was seconded by Mr James Daykins. Mr William Crichton, bookseller, moved that the Special Act be unconditionally and immediately withdrawn, and this was seconded by Mr John Laurie. Ultimately the Chairman asked the meeting to divide for the motion and amendment. When the parties had removed to sides of the room the presence of several persons who were not qualified to vote rendered it difficult to decide which side had the majority, as, from all appearances, the numbers supporting the

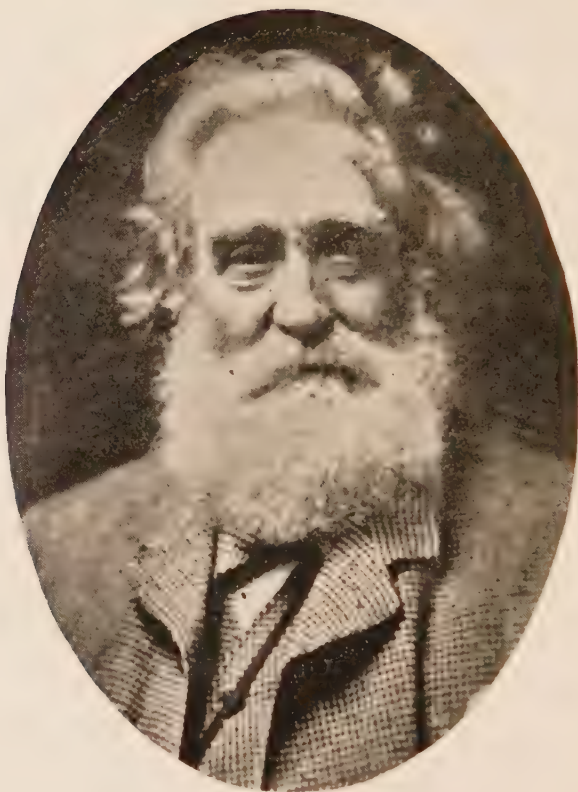
motion and amendment were pretty equally balanced. Mr Andrew Wilson, Mr Thomas Purdom and others demanded a poll, but there seemed to be some disagreement as to those who should be admitted to vote, and Mr Crichton claimed that in accordance with the previous pledge the meeting should decide the question. A good deal of noise and confusion ensued, but as the meeting appeared to think that a poll would be the most satisfactory conclusion, the Chairman announced that it would be taken on the following Monday and Tuesday. The meeting then broke up, the proceedings having lasted about two hours.

The poll took place in the Town Hall on Monday and Tuesday, 4th and 5th February, Bailies Fraser and Waugh presiding. Mr William Norman Kennedy and Mr James Shiel, Inspectors of Poor for the separate parishes of Hawick and Wilton, attended with the valuation rolls of the two parishes, and officiated as polling clerks. Mr William Crichton, bookseller, was also in attendance, watching the proceedings on behalf of the opponents of the Bill. All tenants, whatever their rentals, were permitted to vote, and the total number of tenants and owners of property who recorded their votes was 1120. The poll opened at 10 o'clock in the morning, and voting proceeded vigorously during the day, the friends of the Bill taking the lead, and having a majority of 96 at four o'clock. Up to that hour there had been comparatively little excitement, but, when the poll was re-opened at seven o'clock in the evening the opponents showed up in strong force, and both sides did their best to swell the numbers for and against the measure. At nine o'clock, the close of the first day's poll, the majority for the Bill had decreased to 77, and though the promoters of the Bill had little doubt of achieving a victory the desire to make it as decisive as possible nerved them to exertion, as the utmost activity was shown by the opposition. The "drums and fifes" paraded the town during the day, and the town crier read stirring proclamations urging the hostile voters to record their suffrages. Anxious to make up the loss of the previous evening, those favourable to the Bill prosecuted on the Tuesday an active canvass, which was so successful, that by four o'clock their majority had increased to 151. The contest, so far as the fate of the Bill



was concerned, was now considered virtually closed ; but vague rumours were in the air that troops of navvies were still to come to the rescue of the opposition and vote against the Bill—that even certain strong-minded females would appear and record their votes against the measure. Already, that day two ladies, from the Wilton side, had made their appearance in the old Council House, and recorded their votes against the Bill. They hailed from the Dovemount quarter, and their activity was, perhaps, prompted by the rumour which was afloat that their much prized Dovemount Well was to be spirited over to Hawick when the new Bill became law. The two presiding magistrates received the two suffragettes very good-naturedly, and though they assured them that their votes would make no difference on the result of the poll, yet satisfied them by intimating that their names would be duly recorded.

When seven o'clock arrived on the Tuesday evening, the strongest and final pull began, and a crowd of navvies, who affirmed that they were householders, plumped against the Bill. It was in vain that one of the clerks asked one of the men of fustian and corduroy where he "lodged." The pioneer of railway communication indignantly replied that he had a house of his own and "payed a rint for it." Some of the importations from the Emerald Isle were, however, not so cute, for one, when asked whether he was for or against the Bill, twirled his cap in his hands in a perplexed manner, and replied, "Shure, your Honour, I forgot, but with your will I'll go and ask Mr ——" and away he went, returning in a short time to vote against the Bill with the air of a man who was discharging an important duty. There were also some stockingmakers who put in an appearance and claimed a vote on their frame stances ; but, although the lowest occupancy franchise was admitted, this was carrying the joke rather further than the magistrates considered proper, and the claims were disallowed. When nine struck the voting was finally closed, and it was found that the afternoon's majority was increased by three votes, being 154 in favour of the Bill. No scrutiny was demanded by the opposition, and when Bailie Fraser announced the numbers from the stairs of the Town Hall, the result was received with cheers and hisses by a dense crowd below. When



Mr GEORGE WILSON, FIRST PROVOST OF HAWICK.

the magistrates and committee left the hall a few of the public sought to create an unpleasant demonstration, and one or two of the parties were somewhat roughly jostled. Nothing, however, seriously happened, and before ten o'clock the crowd had quietly dispersed. In Hawick the number of votes cast in favour of the Bill was 519; against, 402—majority, 117; Wilton for, 118; against, 81—majority, 37. The balance of assessable valuation, represented in the two parishes in favour of the Bill was £16,179 3s 11d.

A meeting of the Town Council was held on the evening of Thursday, 7th February, when Bailie Fraser reported the result of the poll. If a scrutiny had been gone into, he believed the majority would have been larger, as many voted against the Bill who were not qualified. Mr G. T. Pringle said he objected to the Burgh of Hawick being connected with Wilton, and would never consent to see the town's property distributed over that parish. He considered they were bound by their oaths, both as burgesses and councillors, to oppose any such arrangement. It was positively unjust that such a poor people as those of Hawick should be assessed to assist the people of Wilton. He considered that the Bill should have been submitted to the Council previous to the public being asked for their decision on it. A long and somewhat acrimonious discussion ensued, Mr Pringle continuing to maintain it would be unjust to spend the burgh revenues for the benefit of Wilton. When it was suggested that, had Wilton been in existence when the Common was granted by Douglas of Drumlanrig, it would have been included in the benefits, he said it was extremely doubtful, as the residents on that side of the river were the tenants of another nobleman. Mr Thomas Purdom pointed out that the burgh revenues would henceforth be at the disposal of the new Council, for carrying out improvements, and for the best interests of the extended burgh. Hawick would have the majority of representatives, and would always exercise full control over the burgh funds. Mr Michie said he was not disposed to take the narrow view of keeping Wilton from the benefits of the burgh funds, though he at one time thought differently. Wilton was in a much

worse sanitary condition than Hawick. The deaths in that parish averaged 44 per 1000, as against 35 per 1000 in Hawick, and were an epidemic to break out, the hold it might obtain in Wilton would be seriously felt in Hawick. It was prudent, therefore, to provide as well as they could for the health of the neighbourhood. Mr Pringle ultimately moved that in the Bill "effect be given to Mr Walter Laing's suggestion of a guarantee for Wilton that the rates there assessed would there be expended, and further, that no money from Hawick be expended in Wilton." Mr Purdom moved as an amendment "that the Council continue their support to the Bill throughout future stages in Parliament, and for this purpose remit the Bill to the original joint-committees appointed by them, and a public meeting, with power to add to their number, and with instructions to report to the Council from time to time, on occasion of any important step being taken in connection with the Bill." On a vote, Mr Purdom's amendment was carried by a majority of 10—7 voting for the motion, and 17 for the amendment.

The fight over the Bill was not, however, yet finished, for about the end of April, when another public meeting was held in order to give the householders an opportunity of learning the progress which was being made with the Bill in London, the opponents, again led by Mr Crichton, succeeded in carrying a motion against it. The meeting was held in the Subscription Rooms, and was presided over by Bailie Waugh. The Bill, as drafted, made provision for a £5 franchise, but this had been resolutely opposed by Lord Redesdale, before whom the Bill had been considered, and who had to report on it to Parliament. His Lordship maintained that as £10 had been the figure agreed on by the Legislature in the General Police Act he did not feel justified in recommending anything lower to the House of Commons in connection with this Special Act. A large number present at the meeting spoke strongly against the franchise being as high as £10, pointing out that this prevented a very large section of the working men of the town having any voice in municipal affairs. After a spirited discussion, Mr Crichton moved—"That it is the opinion



of this meeting that the Hawick Police and Improvement Bill be withdrawn immediately and unconditionally; that the Committee appointed to promote a Bill for Hawick be dispossessed of its functions; and that the result be telegraphed by the Junior Magistrate and Town Clerk to Lord Redesdale and the Parliamentary agents, with instructions to the latter to wind up the affair." This motion, on being put to the meeting was, amid loud cheers, carried by a large majority. Two special meetings of the Council were held, at which this resolution was considered, but, strengthened by the result of the vote of the householders of Hawick and Wilton they agreed to allow the Bill to be proceeded with. During the summer the Bill accordingly received the sanction of Parliament, the total cost of its promotion having been £722.

The new Act divided the town into five wards, the total number of voters in the burgh being 365. In North High Street Ward there were 87 voters; South High Street, 82; Slitrig, 57; Teviot, 102; and Wilton, 37. Subjoined is a full list of the electors:—

#### NORTH HIGH STREET WARD.

William Kedie, 5 Auld Kirkstile.  
 Andrew Oliver, tobacconist, 42 High Street.  
 William Purves, whip-maker, 1 High Street.  
 Thomas H. Hopper, druggist, 3 High Street.  
 John Fiddes, baker, 3 High Street.  
 William Douglas, saddler, 5 Cross Wynd.  
 William Rutherford, watchmaker, 7 High Street.  
 George Brown, grocer, 9 High Street.  
 James Haining, printer, 9 High Street.  
 James Turnbull, draper, 11 High Street.  
 George Wilson, manufacturer, 13 High Street.  
 Richard Rutherford, tailor, 13 High Street.  
 John Hislop Fraser, draper, 15 High Street.  
 John Craig, druggist, 6 Cross Wynd.  
 Robert Black, bookseller, 17 High Street.  
 James Patterson, butcher, 17 High Street.  
 David Scott Park, fancy goods merchant, 19 High Street.  
 Walter Paisley, ironmonger, 21 High Street.  
 James Rutherford, 21 High Street.



Mr GEORGE HARDIE FRASER.  
for many years a Magistrate of the Burgh, and Provost, 1868-71.

Andrew Robison, licensed grocer, 23 High Street.  
 Ebenezer Robison, whip-maker, Wilton Path.  
 William Jeffrey, baker, 23 High Street.  
 Alexander Elliot, 23 High Street.  
 William Revel, tailor, 23 High Street.  
 Francis Deans, postmaster, 25 High Street.  
 Walter Riddle, tailor, 25 High Street.  
 James Swan, licensed grocer, 27 High Street.  
 James Tait, druggist, 27 High Street.  
 John Turnbull, 15 Backdamgate.  
 James Bunyan, barber, 29 High Street.  
 David Patterson, flesher, 37 High Street.  
 Walter Laurie, baker, 39 High Street.  
 Robert Scott, farmer, 43 High Street.  
 Thomas Young, draper, 45 High Street.  
 John Grant, doctor of medicine, 47 High Street.  
 John Laing, hosiery merchant, 49 High Street.  
 James Turnbull, licensed grocer, 51 High Street.  
 Walter Henderson, farmer, 53 High Street.  
 George Patterson, baker, 55 High Street.  
 James Borthwick, grocer, 57 High Street.  
 George Turnbull, accountant, 57 High Street.  
 John Murray, plumber, 57 High Street.  
 James Guthrie, plumber, 61 High Street.  
 Thomas Cathrae, newspaper editor, 61 High Street.  
 John Hogg, butcher, 71 High Street.  
 James Richardson, licensed grocer, 73 High Street.  
 William Murray, china merchant, 75 High Street.  
 John Turnbull, Bourtrees Place.  
 Frederick William Diener, joiner, Bourtrees Place.  
 James Ogg, foreman tailor, North Bridge Street.  
 James Turnbull, seedsman, North Bridge Street.  
 Thomas Laidlaw, manufacturer, North Bridge Street.  
 Henry Paterson, auctioneer, North Bridge Street.  
 William Brown, coal merchant, North Bridge Street.  
 Andrew Yule, tweed merchant, Dovecot Street.  
 Thomas Borthwick, Dovecot Street.  
 Thomas Creedican, Round Close.  
 Thomas Brunton, joiner, Round Close.  
 John Foley, grocer, Walter's Wynd.  
 William M'Kie, manufacturer, Walter's Wynd.  
 John Turner, waste merchant, Tannage Close.  
 William Herriot, framesmith, Tannage Close.  
 Richard Bell, stockingmaker, Tannage Close.  
 James Murray, blacksmith, 1 Brougham Place.

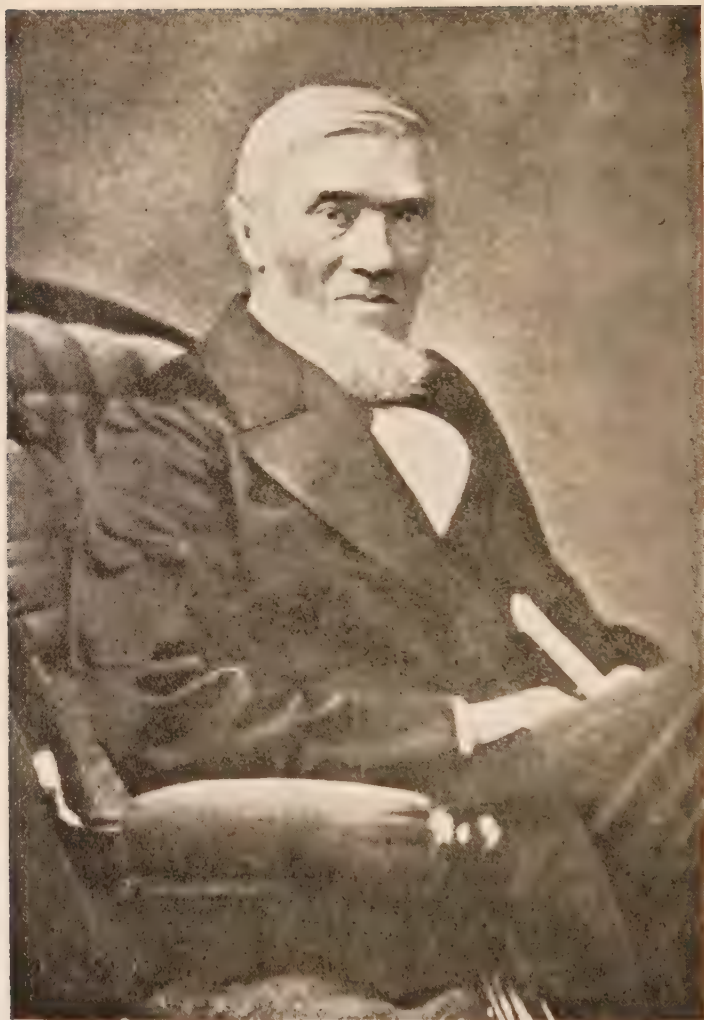
William Turnbull, warehouseman, Mather's Close.  
David Shiel, licensed grocer, Mather's Close.  
Walter Wilson, skinner, 1 Teviot Crescent.  
John Fiddes Wilson, skinner, 1 Teviot Crescent.  
Andrew Spiers, road surveyor, 2 Teviot Crescent.  
John Scott, designer, 5 Teviot Crescent.  
George William Thomson, M.D., 6 Teviot Crescent.  
William Irving, tweed merchant, 7 Teviot Crescent.  
Andrew Kennedy, painter, 12 Teviot Crescent.  
George Hardie Fraser, draper, 13 Teviot Crescent.  
James Dalgliesh, bookseller, 15 Allars Crescent.  
George Hobkirk, corn merchant, 2 Backdamgate.  
Francis Kyle, farmer, 74 High Street.  
Thomas Cook, coal merchant, 1 Silver Street.  
Thomas Scott, foreman, Wilton Mills.  
James Harkness, builder, 13 Allars Crescent.  
Thomas Beattie, hosiery warehouseman, Backdamgate.  
George Tait, builder, 76 High Street.  
James Thomson, Dovecot Street.  
Walter Wilson, manufacturer, Orchard House.  
James Mein, sen., farmer, Weensland.  
James Mein, jun., farmer, Weensland.  
James Bowie, veterinary surgeon, 43 High Street.

## SOUTH HIGH STREET WARD.

James Fenwick, hotelkeeper, Tower Hotel.  
George Blaikie, ironmonger, 2 Tower Knowe.  
George Easton, hairdresser, 2 High Street.  
James Hill, saddler, 6 High Street.  
Robert Hill, saddler, 6 High Street.  
James Scott, Fleece Inn, 6 High Street.  
James Brydon, grocer, 8 High Street.  
John Campbell, baker, 10 High Street.  
John Laing, shoemaker, 10 High Street.  
Charles Watson, painter, 10 High Street.  
Adam Grierson, baker, 10 High Street.  
James Carmichael, solicitor and banker, 14 High Street.  
Thomas Graham, watchmaker, 16 High Street.  
William Davidson, banker, 18 High Street.  
David Hall, rag merchant, 20 High Street.  
James Douglas, 22 High Street.  
John Riddle, tailor, 24 High Street.  
Andrew Irving, accountant, 26 High Street.  
Patrick Connell, tailor, 28 High Street.



William Burns, clothier, 30 High Street.  
 James Shiel, retired hotelkeeper, 30 High Street.  
 Andrew Waugh, clothier, 38 High Street.  
 Walter Forsyth, butcher, 40 High Street.  
 Francis Little, baker, 42 High Street.  
 Robert Purdom, farmer, 46 High Street.  
 Thomas Purdom, banker and solicitor, 46 High Street.  
 John Wield, druggist, 48 High Street.  
 John Skinner, seedsman, 50 High Street.  
 William Barclay, solicitor, 52 High Street.  
 Walter Storrie, woolsorter, 56 High Street.  
 Thomas Laidlaw, licensed grocer, 60 High Street.  
 James Temple, cabinetmaker, 62 High Street.  
 Robert Young, baker, 66 High Street.  
 Andrew Leyden, carter, 66 High Street.  
 Francis Charters, coal agent, 68 High Street.  
 Walter Mabon, grocer, 68 High Street.  
 William Wightman, grocer, 70 High Street.  
 John Paterson, ironmonger, 72 High Street.  
 Adam Sinton, carter, 72 High Street.  
 Andrew Richardson, grocer, 72 High Street.  
 John Inglis, 78 High Street.  
 Robert Milligan, cabinetmaker, 80 High Street.  
 Thomas Gray, publican, 2 Cross Wynd.  
 Alexander Scott, 6 Cross Wynd.  
 Michael Anderson, stockingmaker, Cross Wynd.  
 James Wintrup, shoemaker, 7 Cross Wynd.  
 Andrew Grieve, farmer, 15 Cross Wynd.  
 Robert Michie, skinner, 6 O'Connell Street.  
 Thomas Allan, blacksmith, 6 O'Connell Street.  
 John Sharp, 8 O'Connell Street..  
 Henry Hunt, grocer, 7 O'Connell Street.  
 John Eckford, 3 Melgund Place.  
 Alexander Goold, framesmith, Brougham Place.  
 Walter Hall, warehouseman, Brougham Place.  
 William Mitchell, coachbuilder, Brougham Place.  
 William Syme, road surveyor, Brougham Place.  
 William Cochrane, Brougham Place.  
 James Douglas, cashier, Brougham Place.  
 William Thomson, East Bank.  
 William Munro, ropemaker, Bourtree Place.  
 George Turnbull, seedsman, Bourtree Place.  
 Adam Scott, joiner, Bourtree Place.  
 John Davidson, plasterer, Bourtree Place.  
 William Smart, baker, Backdamgate.



Mr ANDREW WAUGH,  
for many years a Magistrate of the Burgh.

William Langton, framesmith, Backdamgate.  
 John Kyle, hosiery foreman, Backdamgate.  
 Walter Reid, bank clerk, 4 Allars Crescent.  
 Andrew Borthwick, Allars Crescent.  
 George Cairns, Allars Crescent.  
 Alexander Maule Wilson, painter, 10 Allars Crescent.  
 John Rutherford, 10 Allars Crescent.  
 Rev. Thomas Russell, 12 Allars Crescent.  
 James Hope, mill foreman, 1 Allars Crescent.  
 John Hobkirk, joiner, 3 Allars Crescent.  
 James Melrose, wool merchant, 11 Allars Crescent.  
 William Miller, stockingmaker, 13 Allars Crescent.  
 William Burn Notman, cashier, 15 Allars Crescent.  
 John Black, greengrocer, Bogliebarns.  
 William Wright, Green Wynd.  
 William Young, 54 High Street.  
 George Brown, greengrocer, 13 Cross Wynd.  
 John Guild, sergeant of police, Slitrig Crescent.  
 Henry Dodimead, carrier, Millpath.

## SLITRIG WARD.

John Armstrong, ironmonger, Tower Knowe.  
 John Bunyan, 3 Tower Knowe.  
 Mungo Wilson, grocer, 4 Silver Street.  
 James Ovens, blacksmith, 3 Silver Street.  
 Michael White, stockingmaker, 2 Silver Street.  
 William White, shoemaker, 2 Silver Street.  
 Peter Wilson, hosiery manufacturer, 6 Auld Kirkstile.  
 Richard Purdom, joiner, 7 Auld Kirkstile.  
 Joseph Fiddler, stockingmaker, 9 Auld Kirkstile.  
 Andrew Murray, teacher, 8 Auld Kirkyard.  
 William Murray, teacher, 8 Auld Kirkyard.  
 Robert Clark, stockingmaker, 1 Kirk Wynd.  
 Oliver Hardie, farmer, 13 Kirk Wynd.  
 William Burnet, shoemaker, 2 Kirk Wynd.  
 John Aitken, farmer, 16 Kirk Wynd.  
 William Inglis, foreman, Allars Crescent.  
 William Turnbull, grocer, 3 Howegate.  
 Robert Burnet, shoemaker, 5 Howegate.  
 Thomas Anderson, 7 Howegate.  
 John Jackson, clogger, 9 Howegate.  
 Robert Cavers, grocer, 11 Howegate.  
 James Tully, farmer, 17 Howegate.

John Nichol, flesher, 17 Howegate.  
George Scott, grocer, 19 Howegate.  
William Crichton, bookseller, 19 Howegate.  
Bernard Wood, broker, 21 Howegate.  
Thomas Shiel, grocer, Loan.  
John Lamb, needlemaker, Mid Row.  
Andrew Bowie, horse shoer, West Port.  
Richard Purdie, baker, 5 Loan.  
Thomas Fleming, farmer, 9 Loan.  
James Ker, Industrial School, Loan.  
Robert Laidlaw, farmer, 17 Loan.  
John Richardson, mill foreman, 23 Loan.  
Henry Richardson, farmer, 37 Loan.  
William Davidson, plasterer, 41 Loan.  
John Weir, woolsorter, 47 Loan.  
Andrew Blythe, dyer, 49 Loan.  
Robert Scott, farmer, Burnflat.  
Robert Ewen, manufacturer, Millbank.  
John Young Scott, Hawick Mill.  
John Nichol, skinner, 1 Slitrig Crescent.  
James Brydon, M.D., 2 Slitrig Crescent.  
Rev. William Anderson, 3 Slitrig Crescent.  
Alexander Turnbull, dyer, 4 Slitrig Crescent.  
John Turnbull, dyer, 4 Slitrig Crescent.  
William Elliot, manufacturer, 6 Slitrig Crescent.  
John Laing, manufacturer, 8 Slitrig Crescent.  
John Turnbull, dyer, 10 Slitrig Crescent.  
James Middlemass, wool spinner, 10 Slitrig Crescent.  
Adam Melrose, engineer, 13 Slitrig Crescent.  
John Melrose, engineer, 14 Slitrig Crescent.  
William Scott, skinner, 19 High Street.  
John Henry King,, Hawick Brewery.  
Rev. John Rose Dakers, The Parsonage.  
William Norman Kennedy, Inspector of Poor, Stonefield  
Cottage.  
Robert Todd, farmer, Lynnwood.  
William Nixon, manufacturer, Lynnwood House.  
Andrew Whillens, 3 Back Row.  
James Sharp, grocer, 1 Fore Row.  
William Brown, stockingmaker, 4 Mid Row.  
John Smeaton, Governor, Poorhouse.



## TEVIOT WARD.

James Gilligan, senr., 2 Howegate.  
 James Gilligan, junr., 2 Howegate.  
 Alexander Thomson, grocer, 6 Howegate.  
 James Haldane, corn merchant, 6 Howegate.  
 John Hutton, clogger, 8 Howegate.  
 Walter Wilson, baker, 10 Howegate.  
 John Riddle, tailor, 12 Howegate.  
 John Martin, joiner, 12 Howegate.  
 Thomas Turnbull, contractor, 14 Howegate.  
 Francis McKenzie, barber, 14 Howegate.  
 William Burnet, shoemaker, 18 Howegate.  
 Michael Sheeran, pawnbroker, 18 Howegate.  
 George Barclay, publican, 22 Howegate.  
 John Aitken, wool agent, Teviot Crescent.  
 Robert Henderson, clerk, 4 Back Row.  
 James Kyle, gardener, Green Wynd.  
 James Wishart, 8 Back Row.  
 Thomas Leithead, gardener, Myreslawgreen.  
 George T. Pringle, grocer, 12 Back Row.  
 Thomas Hislop, baker, 13 Back Row.  
 John Hall, spinner, West Port.  
 William Elliot, farmer, 2 Loan.  
 John Thorburn, farmer, 34 Loan.  
 Joseph Turnbull, grocer, 50 Loan.  
 James Cochrane, stockingmaker, 15 Loan.  
 Thomas Thomline, shoemaker, 44 Loan.  
 Anthony Haig, stockingmaker, 52 Loan.  
 William Blyth, millworker, 54 Loan.  
 David Haig, mason, Drumlanrig Place.  
 Thomas Hunter, farmer, Drumlanrig Place.  
 John Rae, cabinetmaker, Drumlanrig Place.  
 James Glendinning, Drumlanrig Place.  
 Andrew Ballantyne, stockingmaker, Loan.  
 George Armstrong, baker, Sandbed.  
 James Gowans, watchmaker, Sandbed.  
 James D. Kennedy, bookseller, Sandbed.  
 Andrew Graham, draper, Sandbed.  
 George Drummond, corn merchant, Sandbed.  
 John Fox, farmer, 3 Sandbed.  
 Robert Anderson, solicitor, 4 Sandbed.  
 James Oliver, auctioneer, Bridge House.  
 Charles Scott, shoemaker, 6 Sandbed.  
 John Greenfield, teacher, 7 Sandbed.



THE HIGH STREET AND TOWER KNOWE.

Walter Nichol, 8 Sandbed.  
James Messer, cooper, 8 Sandbed.  
James Tudhope, tobacconist, 10 Sandbed.  
George Scott, ironmonger, 11 Sandbed.  
William Young, baker, 12 Sandbed.  
William Wood draper, 6 Tower Knowe.  
Andrew Cochrane, tailor, Orrock Place.  
Alexander Michie, skinner, Orrock Place.  
James Elliot, publican, Ewe and Lamb.  
James Chessier, plumber, High Street.  
James Elliot, grocer, 2 Buccleuch Street.  
Walter Scott, joiner, 4 Buccleuch Street.  
John Harper, 8 Buccleuch Street.  
Robert Deans, printer, 8 Buccleuch Street.  
William Dickson, 14 Buccleuch Street.  
John Deans, gardener, 16 Buccleuch Street.  
Walter Pringle, manufacturer, 18 Buccleuch Street.  
Alexander Laing, tweed merchant, 22 Buccleuch Street.  
William Dickson, senr., Teviot Lodge.  
Anthony Dodds, Buccleuch School House.  
William Telfer, grocer, Buccleuch Street.  
William Nesbit, butcher, 1 Buccleuch Street.  
Charles Kirk, writer, 3 Buccleuch Street.  
James Wilson, town clerk, 5 Buccleuch Street.  
Adam Hislop, clerk, 5 Buccleuch Street.  
Donald M'Leod, surgeon, 7 Buccleuch Street.  
Rev. John Thomson, 9 Buccleuch Street.  
James Oliver, writer, 11 Buccleuch Street.  
George Oliver, writer, Borthaugh.  
James Wood, 13 Buccleuch Street.  
Rev. Patrick Taggart, 15 Buccleuch Street.  
William Kyle, gardener, 6 Buccleuch Street.  
James Inglis, joiner, Myreslawgreen.  
William Tait, Myreslawgreen.  
Theodore Jardine, Myreslawgreen.  
Robert Tait, mason, Myreslawgreen.  
Thomas Tait, joiner, Myreslawgreen.  
John Brunton, joiner, Round Close.  
Rev. James Parlane, West U.P. Manse, Myreslawgreen.  
Rev. John MacRae, Hawick Manse.  
Peter Laidlaw, manufacturer, Wilton Grove.  
Ebenezer Liddle, farmer, Rockvale.  
James Barrie, engineer, Wellington Place.  
George Thomson, Wellington Place.  
Andrew Jamieson, Wellington Place.

William Richardson, tweed merchant, Wellington Street.  
 George Richardson, wool merchant, Wellington Street.  
 Archibald Aitken, grocer, Wilton Path.  
 William Rae, dairyman, Upper Damside.  
 William Eckford, baker, Wellington Street.  
 Thomas Ormiston, woolsorter, Wellington Street.  
 William Robson, Wilton Path.  
 John Knox, gardener, Wilton Path.  
 Rev. William Henry Gualter, Free Church Manse.  
 Archibald Donaldson, oil extractor, Pathhead.  
 David Pringle, Wilton Lodge.  
 John Ballantyne, Ladylaw Place.  
 William Wallace, 22 Howegate.  
 James Anderson, 6 Loan.  
 James A. H. Murray, teacher, Buccleuch Street.

#### WILTON WARD.

John Wilson, manufacturer, Ladylaw.  
 Walter Wilson, manufacturer, Silverbuthall.  
 Walter Laing, manufacturer, Springbank.  
 John Purdom, publican, Pathfoot.  
 Robert Nichol, miller, Roughheugh.  
 John Hunter, cabinetmaker, Ladylaw Place.  
 James Lyle, Dickson Street.  
 Robert Robertson, grocer, Dickson Street.  
 Andrew Stark, Dickson Street.  
 James Shiel, registrar, Albion Place.  
 James Yellowlees, grocer, Dickson Street.  
 Henry Amos, butcher, Dickson Street.  
 George Burns, Wilton Place.  
 J. C. Hawkins, chemist, Wilton Place.  
 Alexander Wemyss, commission agent, Wilton Place.  
 Matthew Brown, coal merchant, Bridge Street.  
 Francis Henderson, spinner, Wilton Place.  
 George Marshall, Havelock Street.  
 William Turnbull, Havelock Street.  
 Robert Miller, coal agent, Wilton Place.  
 Adam Laidlaw, builder, Kirkhouse.  
 Robert Martin, tailor, Wilton Place.  
 John Marshall, Albion Place.  
 Alexander Brodie, spirit merchant, Albion Place.  
 William Leithead, hosiery foreman, Langlands Place.  
 James Hart, contractor, Lockieshedge.  
 Rev. James Stewart, Wilton Manse.

John Gourley, railway employee, Havelock Street.

Francis, Oliver, contractor, Back Row.

J. A. H. Blaine, Schoolhouse.

Rev. Robert Mitchell, Hopehill.

James Gray, grocer, Ladylaw Place.

James Scott, Gasworks.

Walter Laidlaw, shoemaker, Dickson Street.

Robert Watson, manufacturer, Wilton Bank.

John Richardson, spinner, Back Row.

George Davies, butcher, Pathfoot.

Robert Lawson, warehouseman, Ladylaw Place.

William R. Wilson, manufacturer, Ladylaw.

The first municipal election was held on Tuesday, 5th November, 1861, when contests took place in each of the five wards. The ballot had not then been adopted, and the position of the different candidates on the poll was known throughout the day. The poll opened at eight o'clock in the morning, and closed at four in the afternoon. There were a large number of candidates, and much interest was taken in the election, notwithstanding that most of the working classes had no vote, few workers living in houses of £10 value in those days. The following is the state of the polls in each ward at various times from mid-day to the close, the three highest being the successful candidates:—

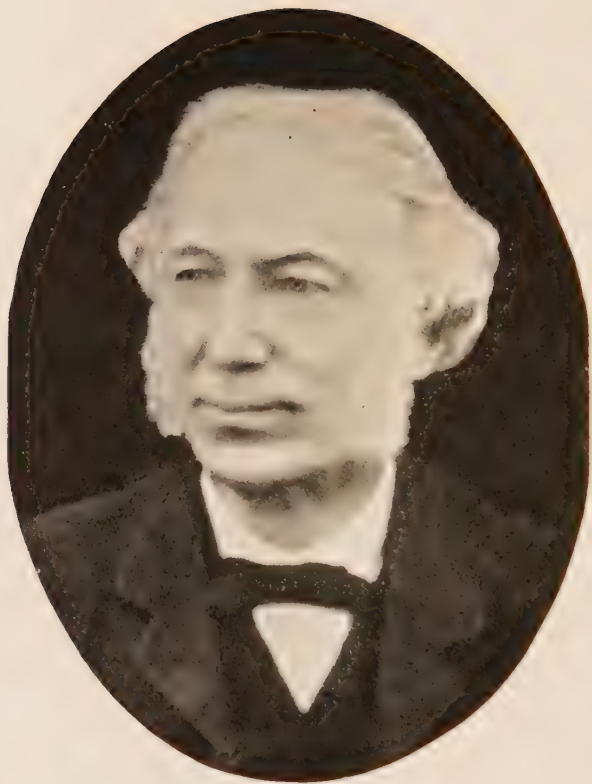
## NORTH HIGH STREET WARD.

|                              | 12 o'clock. | 1.30. | 3. | Close. |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------|----|--------|
| George H. Fraser, draper ... | 13          | 22    | 30 | 51     |
| Thomas Laidlaw, manufacturer | 6           | 16    | 23 | 41     |
| George Wilson, manufacturer  | 9           | 17    | 24 | 40     |
| James Turnbull, draper ...   | 8           | 12    | 16 | 22     |
| James Ogg, cutter ...        | 4           | 4     | 5  | 6      |
| George Patterson, baker ...  | 1           | 4     | 6  | 6      |
| F. Diener, joiner ...        | 3           | 3     | 4  | 6      |
| R. Rutherford, clothier ...  | —           | —     | 1  | 1      |

## SOUTH HIGH STREET WARD.

|                                 | 12 o'clock. | 1.30. | 3. | Close. |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------|----|--------|
| Thomas Purdom, writer ...       | 24          | 28    | 35 | 51     |
| John Paterson, manufacturer ... | 25          | 30    | 37 | 49     |
| Andrew Waugh, clothier ...      | 17          | 20    | 26 | 41     |
| George Turnbull, seedsman ...   | 17          | 20    | 27 | 33     |
| James Carmichael, writer ...    | 16          | 20    | 25 | 31     |





MR THOMAS PURDOM,  
at one time a Magistrate of the Burgh, and Town Clerk, 1862-86.

## SLITRIG WARD.

|                                  | 12 o'clock. | 1.30. | 3. | Close. |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------|----|--------|
| William Elliot, manufacturer ... | 24          | 36    | 41 | 45     |
| John Melrose, millwright ...     | 20          | 29    | 30 | 34     |
| William Turnbull, grocer ...     | 10          | 18    | 26 | 30     |
| John Laing, manufacturer ...     | 16          | 24    | 25 | 28     |
| John Y. Scott, miller ...        | 7           | 12    | 15 | 16     |
| Robert Ewen, manufacturer ...    | 4           | 5     | 5  | 6      |

## TEVIOT WARD.

|                                  | 12 o'clock. | 1.30. | 3.         | Close. |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------|------------|--------|
| James Oliver, writer ...         | 28          | 28    | 46         | 59     |
| Robert Anderson, writer ...      | 18          | 22    | 41         | 53     |
| Peter Laidlaw, manufacturer ...  | 23          | 30    | 41         | 45     |
| Walter Pringle, manufacturer ... | 7           | 7     | 16         | 22     |
| G. T. Pringle, grocer ...        | 6           | 10    | 13         | 17     |
| Walter Laing, manufacturer ...   | 1           | 1     | withdrawn. |        |

## WILTON WARD.

|                                   | 1.30. | 3. | Close. |
|-----------------------------------|-------|----|--------|
| John Wilson, manufacturer ...     | 12    | 16 | 22     |
| Adam Laidlaw, builder ...         | 14    | 16 | 21     |
| Walter Laing, manufacturer ...    | 13    | 15 | 21     |
| D. Pringle, of Wilton Lodge ..    | 10    | 16 | 21     |
| Alex. Brodie, spirit merchant ... | 3     | 4  | 6      |
| Walter Laidlaw, shoemaker ...     | 4     | 5  | 5      |

In consequence of the tie between Adam Laidlaw, Walter Laing, and D. Pringle, another election took place on Monday, 11th November, with the following result:—

|                                   | 10 a.m. | 1 p.m. | 3 p.m. | Close.          |
|-----------------------------------|---------|--------|--------|-----------------|
| Walter Laing, manufacturer ...    | 12      | 16     | 20     | 25              |
| D. Pringle, of Wilton Lodge ...   | 11      | 15     | 17     | 19              |
| Adam Laidlaw, builder ...         | 2       | 5      | 12     | 15              |
| Alex. Brodie, spirit merchant ... | —       | 3      | 7      | with-<br>drawn. |

The following is an abstract of the assets and liabilities of the burgh in 1861, prepared by a Committee and approved of by the old Town Council before they demitted office:—

## ASSETS.

|   |     |                |             |
|---|-----|----------------|-------------|
| 1. Hawick Common or Muir, 1081½ acres, viz. :—  |     |                |             |
| Pilmuir Farm Rent, £495; Williestruther, £43 2s 4d; Herd's Field, £6; Field let to Messrs Aitchison, £39 13s; Cattle Pasture, about 120 acres, £60; Landed Pasture, about 80 acres, say £40.—£683 15s 4d. |     |                |             |
| Value at 30 years' purchase   | ... | £20.500        | 0 0         |
| 2. Value of plantation at 5s per annum per acre from the time of planting   | ... | 378            | 10 0        |
| 3. Farm buildings in progress, being amount already paid towards the contract. The tenant paying 4 per cent. interest on the sums expended  |     |                |             |
|   | ... | 330            | 0 0         |
| 4. Loaning or Tryst ground, 3¼ acres, at £120   |     | 375            | 0 0         |
| 5. Myreslawgreen, 3 acres, rent £20, at 30 years  |     | 600            | 0 0         |
| 6. Upper Common Haugh, 4¾ acres, at £400  |     | 1750           | 0 0         |
| 7. Little Haugh at Teviot Crescent, say   | ... | 300            | 0 0         |
| 8. Sandbanks on Teviot, average rent, £15, at 20 years  |     |                |             |
|   | ... | 300            | 0 0         |
| 9. Teviotside Feus, duty £22 11s 9d, at 20 years  |     | 450            | 0 0         |
| 10. Feus £126 2s 8d, and small rents £1 2s, £127 4s 8d, at 20 years   |     |                |             |
|   | ... | 2540           | 0 0         |
| 11. Town House property   | ... | 2000           | 0 0         |
| 12. Water Works, amount £50, at 20 years  | ... | 1000           | 0 0         |
| 13. Tryst Customs, amount £1, at 20 years   | ... | 20             | 0 0         |
| 14. Loan for New Municipal Act, repayable   | ... | 772            | 0 0         |
| 15. Corn Exchange Shares, paid up   | ... | 50             | 0 0         |
|   |     | <u>£31.365</u> | <u>10 0</u> |

## LIABILITIES.

|  |       |                |             |
|--|-------|----------------|-------------|
| 1. Loans on Bills  | ...   | £3700          | 0 0         |
| 2. Treasury Loan for Drainage  |       |                |             |
|  | £1375 | 0 0            |             |
| Less half the annuity paid   |       |                |             |
|  | 188   | 0 0            |             |
|  |       | 1187           | 0 0         |
| 3. Loan for Municipal Act  | ...   | 772            | 0 0         |
| 4. Subscription to Waterside Road  | ...   | 50             | 0 0         |
| 5. Subscription to re-build Teviot Bridge provided Road Trustees proceed |       |                |             |
|  | ...   | 200            | 0 0         |
| 6. Subscription to Corn Exchange   | ...   | 200            | 0 0         |
| Free Balance of property belonging to Burgh                              |       |                |             |
|  |       | 25.256         | 10 0        |
|  |       | <u>£31.365</u> | <u>10 0</u> |

## POLICE ADMINISTRATION: THE LICENSING LAWS.

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**A**T the beginning of the sixties the police administration within the burgh was in a very loose and unsatisfactory condition, but the advent of the new Town Council in November, 1861, speedily brought about much needed changes and improvements. In the days of our grandfathers the total force responsible for the maintenance of law and order in the town consisted of a Sheriff officer and two burgh officers. In the forties the former official was John Scott, better known by old and young as "Jock the Sweep," the two burgh officers being John Wilson and William Turnbull. Wilson, who was familiarly known as "Tufty," was also town's drummer, while Turnbull was bellman. Wilson had been a regimental tailor, and as such was a specialist at making tufts for the shoulders, hence he came to be called "Tufty." He was naturally an active athletic man, and this combined with his military training, and the fact that he was to a very large extent a law unto himself, rendered him in a peculiar sense a terror to evil doers. The sight of "Tufty" approaching was especially alarming to the mischievous boys of the town, for he dealt out punishment to them in a summary manner, and a good sound "cluff o' the lug" was by him a daily form of chastisement. One day "Tufty" was reluctantly compelled to arrest a crony who had committed a trivial offence. He conveyed him along the High Street to the jail door, when he let go his prisoner to put the key in the lock. Taking the hint, the prisoner made off at full speed. Some of the more influential townsmen being at hand "Tufty" felt compelled to give chase, and soon gaining on the culprit, he shouted to him in a hoarse whisper. "Rin, ye beggar, or I'll hae to catch ye!"



HAWICK MOAT.



The Police Act which came into operation in 1846 changed the existing condition of things, and a regularly constituted Police Force, in blue uniform appeared on the streets of Hawick for the first time on the 26th May, 1846. The force consisted of a superintendent and three constables. In 1854 James Thom was appointed to the office of superintendent, Tom Wells being then burgh officer, and John Guild, sergeant of the county police force at Hawick. The force, however, carried out their duties in a very easy going manner, and were in no sense aggressive. Previous to 1853, when the Forbes McKenzie Act became law, by which licensed houses were closed on Sundays, and at eleven o'clock on week nights, the streets were often noisy till a late hour. As a consequence brawls were of frequent occurrence, but a disturbance required to be something serious before the police interfered. The streets were badly lighted at nights, and as they were frequently infested with dangerous characters, and half-drunken men, it was anything but safe to be out of doors at a late hour. Assaults and robberies were quite common. The presence of a large body of navvies during the making of the railway to the south led to increased drunkenness and rowdyism. On Saturday evenings they generally visited the town in large numbers, and as most of them were heavy drinkers, their carousals were frequently followed by free fights. Few of them thought of returning to their huts that night, and as drink could be had freely both in shebeens and licensed houses on the Sundays, that day was also made one of debauchery, and drunken men rolling about the streets were one of the commonest scenes and created no surprise. As the small local police force were quite inadequate to deal with the overwhelming numbers that turned the town during the week-ends into pandemonium, and as the county force either refused or were not permitted, by their superiors, to interfere within the burgh, the matter became of such serious importance that at the meeting of the Town Council in August, 1860, Bailie Purdom, the senior magistrate, announced his intention of swearing in a number of townsmen as special constables in order to assist in maintaining order.

The pressing need for a drastic reform in the police administration of the burgh was forcibly brought before the public in the course of the evidence which was led at the Jedburgh Circuit Court in April, 1861, when a young man named William Moore, a baker, was arraigned on a charge of robbery and murder. The first indictment against Moore was that of robbing an old man, a drover, and the second that of the robbery and murder of William Ainslie, a young millworker. In connection with the first charge a stockingmaker named Alexander Pennycook was also implicated, but in order that the latter might not be prejudiced by being placed in the dock along with a prisoner charged with the serious crime of murder, the trials were separated. Evidence against Moore on both charges was led at great length, and it not only revealed an entire absence of discipline and authority on the part of the police, but the fact of the members of the force openly conniving with publicans in contravening their licenses.

No more scathing attack on any police force was ever formulated, than that made at the close of the trial by the Lord Justice Clerk who said:—"I cannot but notice on the present occasion, some circumstances which have been pressed upon my attention in the course of the trial now concluded. In the first place, I have been impressed with this strong conviction that the police force in the town of Hawick is by no means what it ought to be. I am not aware whether this is a matter which falls under the administration of the Sheriff of the county, or whether the magistrates of the burgh are responsible. I do not intend any observations which I make to reflect, in any degree, on the county authorities, but I think it right to make them. The population of the town of Hawick, so far as we have seen during the trial, and of what this Court knows of them otherwise, is one which requires a very strong force of police. The scenes we heard detailed in the course of that trial as occurring on the streets of Hawick during night, are such as, I trust, are not common in any other town, and would require to be very carefully watched. Instead of having police fit for their duty, we find them wandering about the streets—apparently looking after passengers with a feeling of curiosity more

than anything else, occasionally joining their company, and also joining in drinking—a circumstance that impressed me very strongly—and when occasion actually arises, even of the most pressing description, they show an amount of carelessness which is highly culpable, and even when information is brought them that something very like a murder has been committed over night, the suspected murderer is allowed to leave the town without the slightest enquiry or attempt to apprehend him. This is a very serious state of matters, and I trust that these observations may be made public, in order to remedy this great evil by those who are responsible—whether they be the local magistrates or the higher authorities in the county.”

The charge against Moore and Pennycook was that of having, on the evening of Friday, 18th, or the morning of Saturday, 19th October, 1860, at or near the Tower Knowe, feloniously attacked and assaulted James Elliot, a drover, residing at Greenriver, seized hold of him by the throat, dragged and pushed him about, kicked him on the face, and robbed him of a silver watch, 8/ in money, and several articles, the additional charge against Moore being, that on the morning of the 19th October, in or near the Free Church Lane, he attacked William Ainslie, junr., Wilton Path, struck him a severe blow on the head and face with a bottle or stone, robbed him of a purse and 10/ in money, and other articles, and pushed or threw him into the river Teviot. After an exhaustive trial Moore was found guilty of the assault and robbery of the drover, but the verdict of the majority of the jury with regard to the robbery and murder of Ainslie was “not proven.” Moore’s sentence was one of eight years’ penal servitude. On the following day Pennycook was placed at the bar, and, pleading guilty, received a similar sentence.

The report of Captain Kinloch, H.M. Inspector of Constabulary, for 1861, was that the force was neither efficient in number nor discipline. The lock-up was also stated to be very low and dark, and he recommended it should be done away with at once and proper cells provided. After the Police and Improvement Act came into operation steps were promptly taken by the



NEEDLE STREET.

newly constituted Town Council to remove the stigma which rested upon the town in this respect, and the force was at once doubled, and consisted of a superintendent, a sergeant and six constables, Mr Daniel Munro, superintendent of the Roxburghshire Constabulary, superceding Mr James Thom, his salary being £100 a year. Under Mr Munro's direction matters quickly improved, the streets becoming quieter and safer at nights. Returns of convictions were then made to the end of September each year, and for the year ending September, 1862, the number of offences reported was 543, and the number of persons apprehended or cited, 524; for the same period ending September, 1863 the numbers were—offences reported, 513, persons apprehended or cited, 495. Against these figures may be given those for the year 1912—offences reported, 275, persons apprehended or cited, 303. Although the population of the town is nearly double what it was fifty years ago, it is gratifying to note that there is a very considerable diminution in the number of persons now appearing before the Court, and that notwithstanding that the police are very much more alert and vigilant than in the sixties.

The licensing laws half a century ago were very different from what they are now, and contraventions of certificates were regarded by the police authorities as matters of trivial importance. Licenses were easily procured, and were not the valuable asset they now are. Tied houses were unknown; it was not the age of trusts, syndicates, and limited liability companies—the company promoter's voice had not been heard in the land. The gin palaces and palatial bars which now exist in all centres of population had not made their appearance; the inns and hotels, especially in provincial towns and rural districts were modest unpretentious houses—low ceilings, badly lighted and poorly furnished. Bar drinking had scarcely begun, and all classes adjourned to the kitchen or sitting room of their favourite "house" where local and Imperial questions were leisurely discussed over the social glass. Previous to the passing of the Forbes McKenzie Act in 1853, there was only one form of license that of the "common inn," so that drinking was permitted on all licensed premises. Neither were there any restrictions of



hours, and the premises were open on the Sunday as well as the Saturday.

The Forbes McKenzie Act brought about a drastic change, creating three classes of licenses—hotels, public-houses, and licensed grocers. Sunday closing was introduced, and the hours during which licensed premises were permitted to remain open on week days were restricted to fifteen hours a day—from eight in the morning till eleven at night. Had the Act been strictly enforced it would undoubtedly have done much good, but, unfortunately, on account of lax police administration in many places, and particularly in small towns, it was, to a large extent, a dead letter. Shebeening was carried on in a comparatively open manner on Sundays, and Hawick, like all other places, had its fair share of such disreputable traffic. This condition of affairs need not create any surprise when it is remembered that the prosecuting of shebeeners lay not with the police authorities, but with the Excise at the instance of any common informant, who, if he did not prove his case was held liable for the cost of the prosecution. As a result shebeening was carried on with impunity, and there was not the slightest difficulty in procuring drink at all hours from either licensed or unlicensed premises. This, naturally, led to much drunkenness, especially on Sundays, and this very unsatisfactory condition of matters was frequently brought up at meetings of the old Town Council, but with the limited powers which they possessed, it was felt that little could be done to remedy matters. The licenses were then granted by the Justices of the Peace, and the local police held that it was not their duty, but that of the county constables, to see the licensing laws enforced. In 1862 the licence-holders in Hawick numbered 48 against 52 at the present day.

A side light is given of the extent of Sunday drinking by the discussion which took place at a meeting of the Town Council on Monday, 14th May, 1860. Bailie Purdom, who raised the question, said that some time ago instructions had been given to the police to inspect licensed houses on the Sundays, but on the previous day he was sure a great quantity of drink must have been sold, as the town had

been most disorderly. He had been called to the Police Office, on account of the number of men who had been locked up, and he thought it would be well were the police again instructed to visit all licensed premises on Sundays. Mr Richard Purdom informed his brother councillors that there had been a systematic selling of drink at the spirit shop in his neighbourhood (the Kirkstile) throughout the whole day, and the noise and rowdyism had been most annoying to the residents in that locality.

A more startling statement was made by Mr Robert Michie, who said that about three hundred persons had, the previous day, been counted coming out of two public-houses in the west end of the town. Bailie Fraser also endorsed what had been said by his colleagues, remarking that the scenes on the streets had been most disgraceful, though he did not think sending the police to the public-houses would meet the evil, for the effect would only be that the policemen would get a glass here and there themselves, and would perhaps get the worse for it. He had no objection to the superintendent visiting the houses, but was certainly opposed to the constables being sent. Bailie Purdom having emphasised the fact that it was their duty to do all they could to preserve decency and order, the outcome of the discussion was that Superintendent Thom was instructed to visit the public-houses and report to the Council all the licensed-holders who were found selling drink. With the restricted powers at their command police supervision was of little use, and at another discussion at the Council board some months later the evils of the shebeens were further emphasised, Mr Walter Laing remarking that he thought it was of very little use doing anything in connection with the licensed premises unless something could be done to suppress the unlicensed ones, for the former did little harm in comparison with the latter, which were very numerous. Mr John Paterson expressing his surprise at the existence of such a state of things, Bailie Fraser observed that there were three well-known shebeens within thirty yards from where the "city fathers" were convened. At the May meeting of the Council in 1861, Sunday drunkenness was again referred to, and once more the superintendent of



AN ARCHED HOUSE IN MID ROW.

police was instructed to warn innkeepers and others retailing liquors against Sunday trading, as the Council were resolved, if possible, to put an end to the riotous and disgraceful scenes too frequently witnessed on the streets on the Sabbath.

The Public-Houses Amendment (Scotland) Act of 1862, which came into operation on the 1st September of that year, did much, along with an increased and improved police force, to change the condition of affairs. Greatly increased powers were given to the authorities to deal with both licensed and unlicensed premises where it was suspected liquor was being trafficked in. Authority was given to superior officers to enter and inspect all eating-houses, temperance hotels, shops, and other places where food was sold to be consumed on the premises, while any ordinary constable had the same powers conferred upon him providing he had authority in writing from his superiors, dated not more than eight days previously. The Act also imposed upon the chief officer of police the duty of reporting in writing every Monday, to the prosecutor-fiscal of the district or burgh, the names of all licence-holders from whose premises drunk persons had been seen frequently to issue, and these reports were to be laid before the licensing magistrates at their first meeting. A stricter supervision was also placed over the premises of licensed grocers, though it has to be admitted that for many years afterwards a great deal of illicit drinking took place on such premises. Refusing to quit licensed premises when requested to do so became a punishable offence, as did also that of a person misrepresenting himself to hotel-keepers during prohibited hours, as a bona-fide traveller.

## A NEW WATER SUPPLY.

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**B**ETWEEN the years 1840-50 the great deficiency which was experienced in the water supply, occasioned by the increased consumption consequent on the introduction of pipes to private houses, led to the construction of the reservoir at the head of the Loan, and the replacing of the lead pipes with iron ones throughout the town. Later, the necessity for an increased supply forced itself upon the community, and reports by Mr Gale and Mr Gideon Scott both favoured schemes for drawing a further supply from Hawick Moor. Financial difficulties, however, prevented any new scheme being entered upon, the Council not having power to assess for such. Accordingly, nothing was done till after the Police and Improvement Act of 1861 came into force. The question was immediately taken up by the new Council, and in the autumn of 1862 Mr Bateman, C.E., London, the engineer of the Glasgow Water Works, visited the town and inspected the different sources from which a new supply might be drawn. The town's supply was then being procured from a tract of high land near Haggis Ha', various springs there being collected and conducted by pipes to the small covered reservoir at the Loanhead.

During the summer months, and in periods of dry weather, the supply derived from this source was extremely meagre, and with the addition of several pumps and wells in various parts of the town, was all that the public had to depend upon. Occasionally, the supply fell as low as 13,000 gallons per day, or about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  gallons to each inhabitant, the population of the burgh at that time being about 9000. During the winter months the supply was considerable, but a large portion of it ran to waste for want of sufficient storage accommodation. About



115,000 gallons per day was the town's maximum supply, or close on 13 gallons per head.

Mr Bateman reported upon several sources of supply, such as the Stirches Burn, the Kirkton Burn, Williestruther, and the river Teviot from the Haugh by means of pumping, and from the Dunk Pool by means of gravitation, as well as an extension of the existing supply from the burgh lands. His report was most favourable to the burgh lands, and the Stirches Burn, but after long consideration both schemes were eventually abandoned on the ground of being too expensive. A strong minority of the Council had steadfastly advocated the Common Haugh pumping scheme, in opposition to all others, and they were backed in their endeavours by the voluntary and able aid of Mr John Sewell, C.E., who took an active part in the controversy which waged over the respective merits of the different proposals. At one time it appeared as if this scheme would be adopted, until the proposal to bring in the Dean Burn was made, a scheme which was favourably reported on by Mr Leslie, C.E. There were, however, so many conditions attached to this source of supply—conditions to which a great many of the ratepayers were determinedly opposed, that ultimately it was abandoned. Attention was eventually directed to the Allan Burn, and when examined so satisfactory was this source found in every way that it was at once adopted, and the scheme was carried out under the direction of Mr James Leslie, C.E., Edinburgh.

The work connected with the bringing in of the supply was commenced on the 12th December, 1864, and the formal turning-on ceremony was performed, amid great rejoicings, by the Duke of Buccleuch on Friday, 22nd September, 1865, the total cost of the undertaking being £7000. The day was observed as a general holiday, and the town was gaily decorated, another important feature of the day's proceedings being the laying of the foundation stone of the Corn Exchange. Floral arches spanned the High Street, at the Town Hall and at the east end of the street; others were erected at Buccleuch Street, opposite the Free Church Lane; at the new bridge over the Teviot; at the head of Wilton Path; at Wilton Bank, and at Springbank.



NANCY HEWITSON AND HER DONKEY—familiar figures on the streets  
in the Sixties.

The previous night the Duke resided at Branhholme, and on the Friday forenoon he drove to the Railway Station, where a procession was marshalled, the cavalcade proceeding to the waterworks in the following order:—Band; Volunteers; Cornet, with his right and left hand supporters, with new flag provided by the Town Council for the occasion; burgh officers with halberds; engineers and contractors in carriages; members of the Town Council and officials in carriages; Duke of Buccleuch and Provost Wilson in carriage; body of police; land-owners, farmers, manufacturers, and others in carriages, a numerous body of horsemen bringing up the rear. The streets were crowded, and every window on the line of the procession was occupied by eager sightseers. At the Cricket Field the Volunteers formed in line on each side of the road, and presented arms as His Grace passed, the horses in the carriages afterwards breaking into a brisk trot. At various parts of the road groups of countryfolk had assembled, and as the Duke passed they raised hearty cheers. At Newmill the company passed under a beautiful floral arch, and fording the river, drove to the reservoir, when Mr Purdom, town clerk, read an address from the Town Council to His Grace. The address, which was signed by George Wilson, Provost, contained the following grateful reference to the generosity of the House of Buccleuch:—

No sconer was it represented to your Grace that the Allan Water was deemed the best source of supply, than with a munificence and promptness, if possible, surpassing all former gifts, your Grace at once consented, and that, too, on terms so handsome and liberal that the Council could find no words adequately to express their high appreciation of the crowning proof of your Grace's goodwill to the burgh and readiness to co-operate with its municipal authorities in promoting the welfare of its inhabitants.

\* \* \* \* \*

And now in the face of heaven, and presence of all these delighted spectators, that beautiful mountain stream, which has for ages wended its solitary course down the vale of the Allan, will by your Grace be turned aside from its hitherto idle and unprofitable course, and sent by your Grace through the reservoir and distributive apparatus to the threshold of each family, where, and as it sparkles along the sides of

our streets, it will prove a daily and hourly reminder of your Grace's kindness and goodwill to each inhabitant within the burgh.

\* \* \* \* \*

Owing its existence, as a Burgh, to a remote ancestor of your Grace's ancient house—"Drumlanrig, generous donor," the town of Hawick has, in past ages, received many and substantial proofs of the interest taken by the noble house of Buccleuch, in its progress and prosperity. The records of the Burgh bear incontestable evidence of this. Intimately associated as your Grace's noble ancestors have been with the history of the Burgh, and surrounded as it is, with your Grace's princely domains, it is natural that it should have been, and should continue so. Without, however, derogating from the grace, or the value, of benefits bestowed by former possessors of the Buccleuch estates, the experience of the present Council leads them to regard your Grace as pre-eminently worthy of the title formerly applied to one of your Grace's noble ancestors, of being "The Good Duke."

It will be the duty of the future annalist of the burgh to record, in chronological order, the separate instances of your Grace's benefactions; but it may be allowed to us, here, briefly to mention one or two more recent instances. Within the last few years the burgh has been indebted to your Grace for the abolition of the customs; the grant of a commodious bleaching green; of ground for public shambles; and, but for your Grace's ready aid and co-operation, the improvement of Slitrig Crescent, already finished, the new bridge over the Teviot, and the Exchange Building—both fast approaching completion, would, in all probability, never have been attempted.

Of all the numerous benefits, however, for which the burgh stands indebted to your Grace, the Council do not think there is one which will rank higher in the estimation of the inhabitants, or prove more generally useful to them, and to their descendants, than the constant and copious supply of good water which your Grace is now about to confer upon them.

That your Grace may long "live" to "let live," and that the amicable relations, now so happily subsisting between your Grace and the burgh, may strengthen into an enduring bond of amity and good neighbourliness, is the sincere and earnest prayer of your Grace's much obliged and obedient servants.

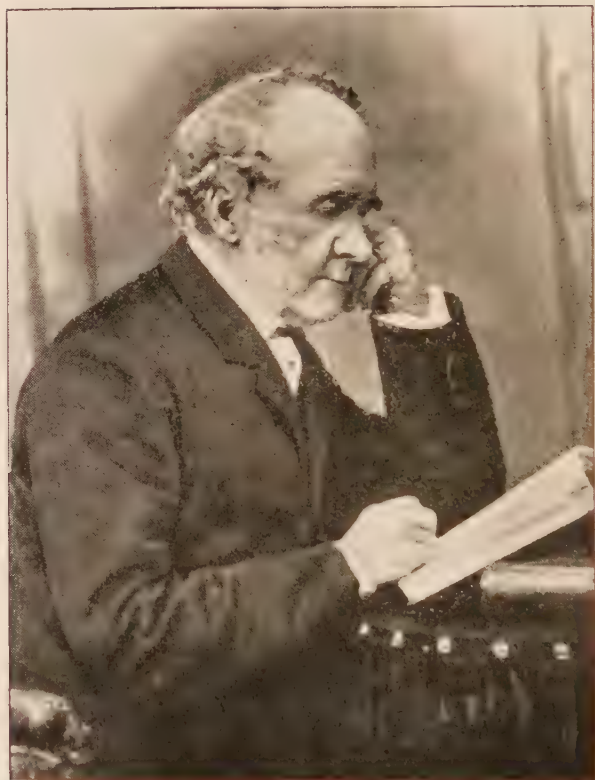
The Duke, in acknowledging the address, said it was very gratifying to him to receive such an address enumerating such acts as he had been able to perform for the benefit of the people of Hawick. He was

glad that it was in his power to do what was so highly appreciated, and with regard to the peculiar circumstance which had brought them together, he could only say that when the application was made to him for a supply of pure and good water for the town, he rejoiced that it had been made, after arriving at the conclusion that it was the only real and true means by which a sufficient supply of the essential element could be obtained. It had given him the highest pleasure in affording that boon to the community of Hawick.

The Rev. Dr MacRae, Hawick Parish Church, then offered prayer, in the course of which he said:—

We thank Thee for the goodly heritage which Thou didst grant to our fathers, and for establishing us, their children, in a land of renown, great in wealth, in strength, in peace, in freedom, and prosperity, enriched with the benefits of art, of science, and industry, and, above all, enriched by the possession and faith of Thy ever-living word, by Thy Church, which maintains and applies it, by the means of grace, and by the hope of glory, of the rest and inheritance of saints made perfect when this mortal shall put on immortality. And especially at this time, and on this occasion, do we thank Thee that Thou hast placed this, Thy people, in a good land, a land of brooks and water, of fountains, and depths that spring out of valleys, and hills, whose pastures are clothed with flocks, and whose fields are covered over with corn, and that Thou has enabled Thy servants to carry the springs, which run among the hills, to the neighbourhood and town below, for the health and refreshment, the convenience, and bountiful nourishment of all the inhabitants. We thank Thee for the successful completion of these works, and we beseech Thee now to be present with, and to bless us, who are assembled to celebrate and set open the riches of Thy bounty. Let Thy blessing rest upon our country, our Queen, our nobles, our senators, our judges, our magistrates, and upon all our people; in all their ranks and their relations, do Thou endow and qualify them to live the life Thou lovest, that, being true and faithful amidst things seen and temporal, they may come to see and enjoy the things which are unseen and eternal. Bless the distinguished Nobleman, who presides on this occasion. Blessed of the Lord be his land, for the precious things of heaven, for the dew, for the precious things brought forth by the sun, for the precious things put forth by the moon, and for the chief things of the ancient mountains, for the precious things of the lasting hills, for the precious things of the earth, and the fullness thereof, and





REV. JOHN MACRAE, D.D.,  
Minister of the Parish of Hawick, 1843-1862.

for the goodwill of Him who dwelt in the bush. Bless him and all his house, and evermore enrich them with the treasures of Thy grace. Bless, Lord, the Magistrates and Councillors of the town, and accept the work of their hands. Bless the people, high and low, young and old together. In their prosperity may they ever be humble and mindful of Thee; may the rich and influential be rich in good works, kind to their dependants, compassionate to the distressed, friendly to all with whom they have to do. Sustain in the hearts of all, the divine principles of faith and love, deliver them from envy, from discontent, and so enable them to know Thee and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent, that their souls and bodies may be quickened to eternal life, even in Him, who is the bread and water of life, and in Whom whosoever believeth shall never hunger or thirst any more.

The Duke then, amid the cheers of the assembled crowd, turned the lever communicating with the valve which discharged the water from the intake pipe into the reservoir. After His Grace had tasted the water, the procession was re-formed, and moved off towards the town. On his return, the Duke proceeded to the laying of the foundation stone of the Exchange Buildings, subsequently attending a banquet in a large wooden building specially erected in the Cricket Field for the purpose. There was an attendance of about 400 persons, presided over by Provost Wilson, Bailie Fraser being croupier. During the proceedings, the Chairman read the following poem, entitled, "Hawick's welcome to Buccleuch," composed for the occasion, by Mr James Ballantine, Edinburgh, bard of the Grand Masonic Lodge of Scotland, and author of "Castles in the Air," and other well-known pieces:—

Come, gather in from hill and plain,  
Let all your hearts leap high and fain,  
And grateful pay the tribute due  
Your genial chief—the kind Buccleuch.

Our forbears aft in days of yore,  
Led by their sires through fields of gore,  
Gaured Southrons fear the bonnets blue  
That rallied round the bauld Buccleuch.

And now, when peace and commerce reign,  
We're led by our brave chief again,  
'Mid pasture green, beglist with dew:  
Who strikes the rock? the kind Buccleuch.

And Hawick's sons, aince reiving chields,  
Are sheltered now in couthy fields.  
And raise up structures fair to view,  
That grace the lands of good Buccleuch.

Our swords are changed to pruning hooks,  
Our mills lap up our babbling brooks,  
And every day brings blessings new,  
That knit us closer to Buccleuch.

Then Hawick, bless this happy hour!  
High shall your Hall of Commerce tower,  
And time still deeper shall embue  
All hearts with love for kind Buccleuch.

## THE BUILDING OF THE CORN EXCHANGE.

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**I**N the early sixties, the erection of the Corn Exchange was one of the most important events in the public life of the community.

The need of a building in which farmers and others could transact their business on market days, and of a hall where large public gatherings could be held, had been much felt for some time. Although the proposal had been a good deal talked of, no concerted action was taken until June, 1860, when, at a meeting of the Teviotdale Farmers' Club, on the 21st of that month, Mr William Aitchison, of Linhope, the president, raised the question. The subject was again discussed at the August meeting of the Club, when a committee was appointed to confer with the Town Council and the Hawick Farmers' Club with regard to the proposal. The scheme was favourably received by both of those bodies; and, for a while, the proposal to have the building erected on the site of the Town Hall was under consideration. This site, however, met with considerable opposition, many townsmen being strongly averse to the removal of such an old landmark as the "Tolbuith." The present site met with general acceptance, and the Duke of Buccleuch, who was warmly interested in the project, offered the ground on the bank of the Slitrig along by the Tower Dykeside. On the 4th of April, 1861, a largely attended public meeting was held in the Tower Hotel, presided over by Mr Allan Elliot Lockhart, M.P., of Borthwickbrae. The proceedings were opened with prayer by the Rev. John MacRae. Captain Chisholme, of Stirches, was the first speaker, and he remarked that it was scarcely necessary for him to enlarge on the absolute necessity that existed for the erection of such a building in order to meet the wants of their rising community. In



"ALL WAS OTHERS"—The Old Property, 25 High Street.



almost every town in the district a Corn Exchange had been erected, and if they wished to retain the Hawick market in its importance, they must have one here also. The importance of the market would be greatly increased by the speedy opening up of railway communication between Hawick, and Carlisle, and Newcastle, and it was obvious that unless they made provision for the comfort of the strangers, who came to the market to purchase grain, they would not come to do business in a cold and exposed place like the Tower Knowe, where they had to encounter tempests and rain, and which was, in fact, a very nursery for colds, catarrh, and rheumatism. He was sure that both town and country would heartily join in carrying out a measure which would be advantageous, both to the agriculturist and to the townspeople. He did not know a community of the size of Hawick worse situated as regarded accommodation for public meetings and entertainments. Mr William Aitchison, of Brieryhill, also emphasised the need of such a building, and said, he trusted that no time would be lost in erecting a building worthy of the town and district. When the railway to the south was completed, he had no doubt that Hawick would soon become, for this side, what Carlisle was for the other side of the Border, the great outlet for the agricultural produce over an extensive breadth of country. Bailie Fraser, senior magistrate of the burgh, spoke of the great want which was felt, in town, of a hall sufficiently large for public meetings and entertainments. The want of such a place prevented good concert companies, and others, from coming to the town. A well-known caterer for the public, in the music world, had said to him, "Give me a room that will hold 1000 or 2000 in Hawick, and I will give you entertainments worth hearing." They were greatly indebted to his Grace the Duke of Buccleuch for the grant of the Old Coach-house, and ground, belonging to him, on the east side of the Slitrig, as it was considered that a more desirable and suitable site could not be procured considering its close proximity to the present Market Place. Among other speakers who gave their support to the movement, were:—Mr George Oliver, banker; Dr Elliot, Goldielands; Mr Usher, Courthill; Mr Walter Laing, manufacturer; Mr Amos,

Earlside; Mr Selby, Hassendean; Mr Haddon, Honeyburn; Mr E. Heron-Maxwell, Teviotbank, etc. The outcome of the meeting was the appointment of a provisional committee for the purpose of taking all the steps necessary for promoting and carrying out the proposed scheme. It was subsequently agreed to form a limited liability company with a capital of £4000 in 800 shares of £5 each, and the necessary prospectus was issued. The cost of the site, with the sum proposed to be expended on the new building, was estimated to be about £3500, and, judging from the returns obtained from similar buildings in Kelso, Galashiels, and other places, an equally good return was calculated upon, while the rapidly increasing population, and other circumstances, rendered it a matter of certainty that that revenue might be even very materially increased. The scheme met with much encouragement and support, the shares being well applied for. The secretary of the company was Mr James Carmichael, solicitor. Subjoined is a list of the original shareholders with the amount of their holdings:—

|  |     |     |     |      |   |   |
|--|-----|-----|-----|------|---|---|
| William Aitchison, Linhope               | ... | ... | ... | £100 | 0 | 0 |
| Andrew Anderson, Woodburn                | ... | ... | ... | 25   | 0 | 0 |
| John Armstrong, ironmonger, Sandbed      | ... | ... | ... | 5    | 0 | 0 |
| Robert Anderson, writer                  | ... | ... | ... | 5    | 0 | 0 |
| Thomas Amos, Earlside                    | ... | ... | ... | 50   | 0 | 0 |
| George Armstrong, baker, Sandbed         | ... | ... | ... | 5    | 0 | 0 |
| Archibald Aitken, grocer, Wilton Path    | ... | ... | ... | 10   | 0 | 0 |
| John Aitken, woolsorter, Teviot Crescent | ... | ... | ... | 5    | 0 | 0 |
| James Amos, Deanfoot                     | ... | ... | ... | 10   | 0 | 0 |
| James Borthwick, grocer, High Street     | ... | ... | ... | 5    | 0 | 0 |
| James Brydon, grocer, High Street        | ... | ... | ... | 5    | 0 | 0 |
| George Brown, grocer, High Street        | ... | ... | ... | 5    | 0 | 0 |
| William Barclay, solicitor               | ... | ... | ... | 10   | 0 | 0 |
| Robert Black, bookseller                 | ... | ... | ... | 5    | 0 | 0 |
| R. and W. Burnet, shoemakers             | ... | ... | ... | 10   | 0 | 0 |
| Patrick Brodie, Clarilaw                 | ... | ... | ... | 100  | 0 | 0 |
| Alexander Borthwick, Newmill             | ... | ... | ... | 5    | 0 | 0 |
| David Brookie, Minto Kames               | ... | ... | ... | 10   | 0 | 0 |
| John Scott Chisholme of Stirches         | ... | ... | ... | 100  | 0 | 0 |
| James Carmichael, writer                 | ... | ... | ... | 50   | 0 | 0 |
| John Craig, chemist, High Street         | ... | ... | ... | 5    | 0 | 0 |

|                                       |     |     |     |   |   |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---|---|
| Thomas Cathrae, journalist            | ... | ... | £5  | 0 | 0 |
| Robert Campbell, Whitehaugh           | ... | ... | 10  | 0 | 0 |
| Andrew Cochran, tailor, High Street   | ... | ... | 5   | 0 | 0 |
| Thomas Cockburn, of Menslaws          | ... | ... | 50  | 0 | 0 |
| Alexander Cochran, Ashkirk            | ... | ... | 25  | 0 | 0 |
| Dickson and Turnbull, seedsmen        | ... | ... | 25  | 0 | 0 |
| William and Gilbert Davidson, bankers | ... | ... | 50  | 0 | 0 |
| James Dalgleish, bookseller           | ... | ... | 5   | 0 | 0 |
| George Davis, flesher, High Street    | ... | ... | 20  | 0 | 0 |
| Francis Deans, postmaster,            | ... | ... | 5   | 0 | 0 |
| Edward Dixon, Gold Island             | ... | ... | 5   | 0 | 0 |
| William Dickson, manufacturer         | ... | ... | 25  | 0 | 0 |
| Anthony Dodds, teacher                | ... | ... | 10  | 0 | 0 |
| James Dickson, of Chatto              | ... | ... | 50  | 0 | 0 |
| James Douglas, clerk, Brougham Place  | ... | ... | 10  | 0 | 0 |
| George Drummond, corn merchant        | ... | ... | 20  | 0 | 0 |
| Sir William Francis Elliot, Bart.     | ... | ... | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| John Eckford, grocer, High Street     | ... | ... | 5   | 0 | 0 |
| William Elliot, manufacturer          | ... | ... | 50  | 0 | 0 |
| James Elliot, grocer, Sandbed         | ... | ... | 5   | 0 | 0 |
| James Elliot, innkeeper, Ewe and Lamb | ... | ... | 5   | 0 | 0 |
| Henry Elliot & Son, Greenriver        | ... | ... | 20  | 0 | 0 |
| Hon. Walter Elliot of Wolfelee        | ... | ... | 50  | 0 | 0 |
| John Elliot of Binks                  | ... | ... | 50  | 0 | 0 |
| Dr Elliot, Goldielands                | ... | ... | 25  | 0 | 0 |
| John Fenwick, Tower Hotel             | ... | ... | 25  | 0 | 0 |
| George H. Fraser, draper              | ... | ... | 25  | 0 | 0 |
| William Grieve, Branhholme Park       | ... | ... | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| James Guthrie, plumber and slater     | ... | ... | 5   | 0 | 0 |
| John Guthrie, plumber and slater      | ... | ... | 5   | 0 | 0 |
| Lewis Guthrie, plumber and slater     | ... | ... | 5   | 0 | 0 |
| William Grieve, Skelfhill             | ... | ... | 25  | 0 | 0 |
| Robert Govenlock, Teinside            | ... | ... | 25  | 0 | 0 |
| James Grieve, Borthwickbrae Burnfoot  | ... | ... | 10  | 0 | 0 |
| Robert Grieve, Southfield             | ... | ... | 20  | 0 | 0 |
| Andrew Grierson, baker, High Street   | ... | ... | 20  | 0 | 0 |
| Robert Grieve, Branhholme Braes       | ... | ... | 25  | 0 | 0 |
| Thomas Hubback, Sunlawshill           | ... | ... | 50  | 0 | 0 |
| Andrew Haddon, Honeyburn              | ... | ... | 25  | 0 | 0 |
| Walter Henderson, farmer, High Street | ... | ... | 5   | 0 | 0 |
| Thomas H. Hopper, chemist             | ... | ... | 5   | 0 | 0 |
| George Hobkirk, corn merchant         | ... | ... | 20  | 0 | 0 |
| James Harkness, builder               | ... | ... | 5   | 0 | 0 |
| Robert Hill, saddler, High Street     | ... | ... | 5   | 0 | 0 |



SITE OF THE CORN EXCHANGE.

|  |     |     |    |   |   |
|--|-----|-----|----|---|---|
| James Hill, saddler, High Street         | ... | ... | £5 | 0 | 0 |
| James Haining, printer                   | ... | ... | 5  | 0 | 0 |
| Charles Henderson, Gatehousecote         | ... | ... | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| Walter Haddon, solicitor                 | ... | ... | 5  | 0 | 0 |
| Adam Hislop, commission agent            | ... | ... | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| James Henderson, Netherraw               | ... | ... | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| W. Norman Kennedy, Inspector of Poor     | ... | ... | 5  | 0 | 0 |
| Andrew Kennedy, painter                  | ... | ... | 5  | 0 | 0 |
| William Kedie, draper, Tower Knowe       | ... | ... | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| Robert Kerr, Fore Row                    | ... | ... | 5  | 0 | 0 |
| Charles Kirk, writer                     | ... | ... | 5  | 0 | 0 |
| Francis Kyle, farmer, High Street        | ... | ... | 5  | 0 | 0 |
| Andrew Kerr, Cross Wynd                  | ... | ... | 5  | 0 | 0 |
| Walter Laing, manufacturer, Wilton Mills | ... | ... | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| Thomas Laidlaw, manufacturer             | ... | ... | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| Walter Laing, Denholmhill                | ... | ... | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| Henry Leithead, Tower Hotel              | ... | ... | 5  | 0 | 0 |
| Richard Lees, Drinkstone                 | ... | ... | 15 | 0 | 0 |
| Peter Laidlaw, Wilton Grove              | ... | ... | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Adam Laidlaw & Sons, builders            | ... | ... | 30 | 0 | 0 |
| Adam Laidlaw, builder                    | ... | ... | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| E. Heron Maxwell of Teviotbank           | ... | ... | 75 | 0 | 0 |
| William M'Kie, manufacturer              | ... | ... | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| William Mitchell, coachbuilder           | ... | ... | 5  | 0 | 0 |
| John Melrose, millwright                 | ... | ... | 5  | 0 | 0 |
| Adam Melrose, millwright                 | ... | ... | 5  | 0 | 0 |
| Robert Milligan, cabinetmaker            | ... | ... | 5  | 0 | 0 |
| James Middlemass, manufacturer           | ... | ... | 5  | 0 | 0 |
| John Moffat, Craick                      | ... | ... | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| The Earl of Minto                        | ... | ... | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| Dr M'Leod, Buccleuch Street              | ... | ... | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| William Munro, Bourtree Place            | ... | ... | 5  | 0 | 0 |
| William Nixon, manufacturer              | ... | ... | 75 | 0 | 0 |
| John Nichol, skinner                     | ... | ... | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| James Oliver, solicitor                  | ... | ... | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| George Oliver solicitor                  | ... | ... | 75 | 0 | 0 |
| James Oliver, auctioneer, Bridge House   | ... | ... | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| John Oliver, Rigg                        | ... | ... | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| William R. Ogilvie, Broadhaugh           | ... | ... | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| James Oliver, Howpasley                  | ... | ... | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| Thomas Purdom, banker and solicitor      | ... | ... | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| George Patterson, Greenbanks             | ... | ... | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| David Pringle of Wilton Lodge            | ... | ... | 75 | 0 | 0 |
| George Paterson, baker, High Street      | ... | ... | 5  | 0 | 0 |



|  |    |   |   |
|--|----|---|---|
| David Paterson, flesher, High Street ... ..                      | 45 | 0 | 0 |
| William Purvis, whip manufacturer ... ..                         | 5  | 0 | 0 |
| John Paterson, manufacturer ... ..                               | 5  | 0 | 0 |
| George Pott of Todrig ... ..                                     | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| William Paisley, president Hawick Co-operative<br>Society ... .. | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| William Rodgie, bank agent ... ..                                | 5  | 0 | 0 |
| Robert H. Rae, Devonport ... ..                                  | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| William Richardson, High Street ... ..                           | 5  | 0 | 0 |
| George Simpson, Bedrule ... ..                                   | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| David D. Scott, Brieryyards ... ..                               | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| E. and R. Selby, Minto ... ..                                    | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| James Swan, grocer, High Street ... ..                           | 5  | 0 | 0 |
| William Scott, skinner ... ..                                    | 5  | 0 | 0 |
| Charles Scott, shoemaker, Sandbed ... ..                         | 5  | 0 | 0 |
| Thomas M. Scott, of Wauchope ... ..                              | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| William Scott, Burnhead ... ..                                   | 5  | 0 | 0 |
| Walter Scott of Newton ... ..                                    | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| Robert Scott, Kinninghall ... ..                                 | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| James Smith, Sheriff-Officer ... ..                              | 5  | 0 | 0 |
| Robert Scott, Boonraw ... ..                                     | 5  | 0 | 0 |
| Sir William Scott of Ancrum, Bart., M.P. ... ..                  | 30 | 0 | 0 |
| John C. Scott of Synton ... ..                                   | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| William Scott of Timpendean ... ..                               | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| Archibald Scott of Howcleuch ... ..                              | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| David Scott, Priestthaugh ... ..                                 | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| Gideon Scott, C.E., London ... ..                                | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| William Scott Elliot Scott of Peel ... ..                        | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| Andrew Shiel, Hassendean ... ..                                  | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| Robert L. Turnbull, Falmash ... ..                               | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| George Tait, builder ... ..                                      | 5  | 0 | 0 |
| John Turnbull, dyer ... ..                                       | 5  | 0 | 0 |
| James Turnbull, grocer, High Street ... ..                       | 15 | 0 | 0 |
| Dr George W. Thomson, Bridge Street ... ..                       | 5  | 0 | 0 |
| Robert Thomson, factor ... ..                                    | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| James Turnbull, draper, High Street ... ..                       | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| Mark Turnbull, Melrose Mills ... ..                              | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| Alexander Thomson, grocer, Howegate ... ..                       | 5  | 0 | 0 |
| John Turnbull, Burnfoot ... ..                                   | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| Mungo Thorburn, Headshaw ... ..                                  | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Douglas Taylor, joiner, Bonchester ... ..                        | 5  | 0 | 0 |
| John Turnbull, coach-driver ... ..                               | 15 | 0 | 0 |
| Thomas Usher, Courthill, ... ..                                  | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| John Welsh, Kirkton, ... ..                                      | 50 | 0 | 0 |

|                                     |     |     |     |       |   |   |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|---|---|
| Thomas Welsh, Eriestane             | ... | ... | ... | £50   | 0 | 0 |
| George Wilson, manufacturer,        | ... | ... | ... | 50    | 0 | 0 |
| Andrew Waugh, clothier, High Street | ... | ... | ... | 5     | 0 | 0 |
| A. M. Wilson, painter               | ... | ... | ... | 10    | 0 | 0 |
| Mungo Wilson, grocer, Silver Street | ... | ... | ... | 5     | 0 | 0 |
| Wood, Graham & Co., drapers         | ... | ... | ... | 25    | 0 | 0 |
| William Rennie Watson, engineer     | ... | ... | ... | 10    | 0 | 0 |
| Adam Wilson, Midshiels              | ... | ... | ... | 20    | 0 | 0 |
| William Young, baker, Sandbed       | ... | ... | ... | 5     | 0 | 0 |
| John Young Scott, Hawick Mills      | ... | ..  | ... | 5     | 0 | 0 |
| Total                               | ... | ... | ... | £3750 | 0 | 0 |

Mr Kedie's portion of the site on the western bank of the Slitrig, was purchased for £825. In response to an advertisement sets of nine plans were submitted, and those by Mr J. T. Rockhead, architect, Glasgow, were accepted, that gentleman guaranteeing the cost of the building for the sum of £3300, exclusive of the cost of arching the river. In consequence of this the shareholders agreed that more capital should be raised, and authorised the issue of other 400 shares. Tenders for the work were invited, the successful contractors being—Mason work, Mr Adam Laidlaw; joiner work, Mr John Martin; plumber and slater work, Messrs James Guthrie & Sons; and plaster work, Mr John Lockie. Some difficulties with the adjoining proprietors, regarding the site delayed building operations being commenced for a considerable time. These were, in time, satisfactorily settled, and the clearing of the site was began towards the end of July, 1863. The excavations were completed, and a start was made with the building of the arch in October.

During the winter months the progress of the work was naturally slow, but, by March, 1864, the arch had been finished, and the laying of the foundation stone was fixed for 15th April. An unexpected catastrophe, however, happened, as about three-fourths of the arch suddenly fell into the bed of the river on the evening of Tuesday, 29th March. The removal of the supporting beams had been proceeded with for some days, and as the masonry appeared to press heavily upon these supports, their withdrawal had been a work of considerable difficulty. About six o'clock on the Tuesday evening, the



THE CORN EXCHANGE.

workmen were startled by the remaining beams giving a crashing sound, while the arch was observed to be sinking a little at each side. The danger of the arch suddenly collapsing was immediately seen, and the workmen beat a hasty retreat. It was fortunate for them that they had the presence of mind to do so, for in a few minutes the labour of months lay a mass of debris in the Slitrig. The noise of the fall was heard for a considerable distance, and immediately there was a great rush of people to the scene. This unlooked for mishap raised questions between the contractors and directors, and further work was delayed for a year.

The ruins lay in the river for several months, until some of the proprietors in the district became apprehensive of the dangers that might result from a flood, and they presented a memorial to the Sheriff praying that the directors should be ordered to have the obstruction removed. The prayer of the petitioners' memorial was granted, but the directors appealed against it to the Sheriff-Principal. Shortly afterwards, however, the misunderstanding between Mr Laidlaw and the directors, which threatened to result in an expensive law suit, was amicably settled, Mr Laidlaw and Mr Martin being relieved of their contracts. The clearing away of the debris was then proceeded with. In March, 1865, fresh contracts were taken for the mason work, which was let to Mr James Steele, builder, Leith (who afterwards became Lord Provost of Edinburgh), and that for the joiner work to Messrs Inglis, Deanbrae Cottage. Mr Steele undertook to have the arch reconstructed in six months, and the building completed in five months thereafter. The joiner work was to be completed four months after the walls were ready for the roof. The new contractors pushed forward the work with great dispatch, and on Friday, 22nd September, 1865, the foundation stone was laid amid much public rejoicing by Mr White Melville, the Grand Master Mason of Scotland, in presence of the Duke of Buccleuch, Sir William Scott, Bart., M.P. for Roxburghshire, and others. The day was observed as a general holiday in town, and in addition to the function at the Exchange, the new Allan Water supply was turned on by His Grace. In a glass jar placed in a cavity of the stone were a

copy of the Memorandum of Association of the Hawick Exchange Company, Limited; a copy of the Articles of Association of the Company; a copy of the feu charter, dated, 25th August, 1865, and signed by his Grace the Duke of Buccleuch; a list of directors of the Company; a summary of capital, and list of shareholders; a copy of the "History of Hawick," by Robert Wilson, published in 1825; a copy of the "Annals of Hawick," by James Wilson, town clerk, published in 1850; "Memories of Hawick," by James Wilson—1858; ticket for the banquet to his Grace the Duke of Buccleuch, on the occasion of laying the foundation stone of the Exchange Hall—also of his opening the Water Works of the Burgh of Hawick—Friday, 22nd September, 1865; coins of the realm; copies of local, district, and daily newspapers; rolls of the Grand Lodge of Scotland; and names of the architect and contractors. The foundation stone was laid in the presence of an immense concourse of spectators with due masonic solemnity and ceremonial. In addition to a large representation from Grand Lodge, the following twenty-one daughter Lodges were represented:—No. 1, Edinburgh Mary's Chapel (3); No. 5, Canongate and Leith (7); No. 8, Journeymen, Edinburgh (30); No. 10, Dalkeith Kilwinning (13); No. 24, Peebles Kilwinning (7); No. 32, St John's, Selkirk (17); No. 97, St James', Edinburgh (8); No. 104, St John's, Jedburgh (21); No. 111, St John's, Hawick (40); No. 132, St Luke's, Lauder (5); No. 151, Edinburgh Defensive Band (8); No. 160, Roman Eagle, Edinburgh (8); No. 216, Stow (12); No. 223, Trafalgar, Leith (3); No. 226, Portobello (4); No. 261, Tweed, Kelso (3); No. 262, St John's Galashiels (33); No. 291, Celtic, Edinburgh (6); No. 349, St Clair, Edinburgh (5); No. 424, St James', Hawick (24); No. 429, St Kentigern, Penicuik (3). There were also present, six brethren from Lodge No. 310, Union, Carlisle, of the Grand Lodge of England, the total number of Freemasons taking part in the proceedings being 310. After the function the Grand Master Mason attended the public banquet in the Cricket Field, but a Masonic banquet was held in the Auction Mart, Bourtrees Place, presided over by Mr Henry Inglis, P.G.M., with the Hon. William Napier as croupier.



## THE RAILWAY STRUGGLE.

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THE railway between Hawick and Edinburgh was opened on the 1st November, 1849, but it was not till some thirteen years later that railway communication was established between Hawick and Carlisle. In the interval the mail coach continued its journey, via Langholm, its last run being on Monday, 30th June, 1862, the newly constructed line being opened for regular traffic on the following day. Over the route which the line to the South should traverse, local feeling ran high, and many bitter animosities were kindled. The two routes upon which the public mind was so sharply divided were what were known as the Liddesdale and the Langholm ones, and the strongest partizanship was displayed by the supporters of each. No political election was ever fought with greater keenness, or with more determination than was the railway struggle of the late fifties.

In 1845 the North British Railway Company obtained powers from Parliament to construct a railway between Edinburgh and Hawick, and, in the following session, they applied for further powers to extend the line to Carlisle by way of Langholm. For this extension they were opposed by the Caledonian Company on the ground that their line to the South not being completed, they were afraid that the powers asked for by their rivals might injure their future advance, particularly seeing their route had been recommended by a Government Committee that had previously inspected and reported on the best route for railway communication across the Border. The North British Company's Bill was accordingly thrown out, meeting with the same fate in the succeeding year. Matters slowly dragged on till 1852, when a meeting, influentially attended, was held at Hawick, and efforts were made to promote, with the



Mr WALTER WILSON of Orchard,  
one of the leading supporters of the Liddesdale line.

assistance of the North British Company, a scheme for a line to Carlisle, the need for such connection with the South being much felt by manufacturers and all engaged in commercial pursuits. Various meetings were held, but no substantial progress was made till 1856, when a survey was made of the suggested Liddesdale route; and, in November of that year, it was announced that a Bill for the construction of such a line would be duly lodged. The Caledonian Company had not, however, been idle, and a number of their supporters in Hawick and district gave notice at the same time of applying for powers for the construction of a line by way of Langholm. The proposed Bill for the Liddesdale scheme was not, however, lodged, nor was the Langholm one, that session. In 1857 the latter scheme was considered by a Committee of the House of Commons, and was successfully opposed by the North British Company. In the following year the struggle reached its height, when both Companies lodged Bills, the Border Counties Company also appearing on the scene with an application for an extension of their line through the North Tyne district to join the North British line at Riccarton.

The Caledonian Company were most anxious to get a footing in the Border country, and succeeded in securing the support of the Duke of Buccleuch. Their proposal included the erection of a railway station in the Common Haugh. The Liddesdale scheme found, however, most favour with the inhabitants of Hawick, a strong point advocated by its supporters being that it would give a direct connection with Newcastle and the Plashetts coal fields. The Langholm scheme, nevertheless, found strong support from a very influential section of the community. The recognised leader of the Liddesdale scheme was Mr Walter Wilson, manufacturer, other stalwart supporters being, Mr George Wilson, Mr John Wilson, Mr Thomas Purdom, Bailie John Paterson, Mr Robert Anderson, Mr Frederick Deiner, Mr Alexander Laing, Mr Robert Michie, Mr Alexander Michie, Mr J. A. H. Murray, Mr Walter Wilson (Teviot Crescent), Mr Robert Ewen, Dr McLeod, Bailie George H. Fraser, Mr James Daykins, and Mr Daniel Stewart of Wilton Dean. Among the local Langholm supporters were Mr John

Scott Chisholm of Stirches, Mr Walter Laing, Mr James Oliver, Bridge House, Mr William McKie, and Mr John Fenwick, Tower Hotel.

An interesting chapter in the history of the struggle was the sitting of the Parliamentary Committee in London, in 1858, before which a great mass of evidence as to the merits and demerits of the rival schemes was submitted. The opening sitting of this Committee was held on Tuesday, 13th April, when Mr Forsyth, one of the counsel for the Langholm Bill gave a lengthy statement of the case from his clients' point of view. The working of a railway from the Caledonian line, near Carlisle, to the North British at Hawick—with a branch to Gretna, and another to Canonbie—would, he submitted, be a great local and public advantage. The district, hitherto, had been entirely destitute of railways, and was now worse off as regarded traffic accommodation than before the establishment of railways. Many coaches and carriers' carts formerly went between Hawick and Carlisle, but the road was now completely deserted. The two schemes before Parliament had substantially the same object in view, the accommodation of the district between Hawick and Carlisle; and the question for consideration was, which was the scheme best adapted to give that local accommodation which the district required.

The only two places of importance, Mr Forsyth continued, between Hawick and Carlisle were Langholm and Canonbie. Langholm had a population of 3500, and, during the previous ten years, its trade had increased six-fold, and it possessed several manufactories and distilleries, besides other important works. The population of Hawick, was about 10,000; there were ten factories in the town employing 4000 persons, and the exports and imports were continually increasing. The Canonbie coal-field was so large that without increasing the present works it could supply 100,000 tons annually for 150 years, and the construction of a railway would cause a considerable reduction of price to the consumer. It was a fact that the North British Company obtained power to construct their line between Kelso and Berwick mainly on the ground that it would reduce the price of coal in the Hawick district to something like 9s per ton. The present average price of coal was however about

18/6 so that the North British Company had failed to redeem their pledge. Mr Forsyth had no hesitation in saying however that the formation of the Langholm line, by bringing the Canonbie coal into competition on something like equal terms with the coal conveyed into the district by the North British Company, would reduce the price to the consumer, so as to make it average from  $9\frac{1}{2}$  to  $10\frac{1}{4}$  per ton. The cost of the Langholm line it was calculated would be £355,000, while that of the North British, on their own showing, would be not less than £495,000, making a difference of £140,000.

Mr Walter Laing, manufacturer, was one of the witnesses in support of the Langholm line. He deponed that his firm employed between 800 and 900 people. The only village on the proposed North British line was Newcastleton, which he described as a miserable hamlet where there was no trade, and it was impossible to say how the people subsisted. The Langholm line on the other hand pursued the old road. It passed through a beautiful district, highly cultivated and well populated. In course of cross-examination, Mr Laing admitted that meetings had been held in Hawick in favour of the Liddesdale route, but these meetings, he submitted, only represented a section of the people, and were got up by the North British Company themselves. The majority of the Town Council had also passed resolutions in favour of the North British scheme, but he believed that about 10 out of the 28 members of Council were opposed to the scheme. The Town Council of Hawick was composed in a very singular manner; it was the closest and most rotten corporation in Scotland, but he understood that there was a movement on foot for getting it reformed.

The Duke of Buccleuch also gave evidence in support of the Langholm line. He said he had property on both the proposed lines, but, the public advantages, he submitted, were decidedly in favour of the Langholm line. Any line which did not touch Langholm would fail to give that public accommodation which every railway ought to afford. He had subscribed largely to the proposed Langholm line. If this line was made it was his intention to re-open certain lime and coal workings in the immediate neighbourhood of the railway. It was





Mr DANIEL STEWART, Wilton Dean,  
a stalwart supporter of the Liddesdale line.

important than an independent Company should have power of carrying lime and coal to Hawick.

Mr George Wilson, manufacturer, gave evidence as to the feeling in town against the Common Haugh being secured by the Caledonian Company in the event of their Bill passing. About a hundred people a day washed in the public wash-house in the neighbourhood of the Haugh, where the clothes were dried and bleached. The Lower Haugh had been sold to the North British Company, and there was a strong feeling in favour of the town getting this back, and a resolution to that effect had been passed at a public meeting recently held. He believed the North British were willing to restore the Lower Haugh. There was a very large number of Hawick people in favour of the Liddesdale line. Public meetings had been held on the subject, and they had all decided in favour of that scheme. No public meeting had ever been held in favour of the Langholm line. A petition had been presented to the Town Council signed by 1579 females using the Haugh, praying that it might be protected. The sum paid by the North British for the Lower Haugh was £3300. The Town Council were elected by about 150 burgesses, out of a population of 11,000 or 12,000 inhabitants.

The Earl of Minto was of opinion that the extension to Carlisle should not be in the hands of the Caledonian Company, and he had every reason to believe that that opinion, if not universal, was, at least, very general in the district. He could not see why the Caledonian Company should introduce themselves into this district except for the purpose of obstructing the traffic.

Mr Walter Wilson, manufacturer, said it was twelve years since he first gave his evidence for a railway line between Hawick and Carlisle. He had been always of the opinion that the North British, seeing they had made the line from Edinburgh to Hawick, should have control of the line between Hawick and Carlisle. It would be an evil, in his judgment, were the line in other hands. Mr John Laing, manufacturer, Hawick, was also one of the local witnesses, and he gave his evidence on much the same lines as Mr Wilson. He had made experiments with the Plashetts coal and had found it superior to the Canonbie coal

for manufacturing purposes. The Plashetts coal appeared to be free from sulphur, and did not leave any ash.

Very much to the astonishment and consternation of the inhabitants of the town and district the preamble of the Langholm Bill was held proved, and that of the Liddesdale Bill not proved, and a public meeting was convened for the purpose of voicing the indignation of the community at the decision of the House of Commons' Committee, which, it was held, was entirely against the wishes of the people of the South of Scotland, and totally in opposition to the weight of evidence given before the Committee. This meeting was called by the supporters of the Liddesdale Bill, as the senior magistrate, Mr James Oliver, Bridge House, had declined, in response to a numerously signed requisition, to convene such a meeting, and the junior magistrate, a supporter of the Liddesdale line, was from home. So keen was the feeling on the defeat of the Bill that the Town Hall was entirely inadequate to hold the vast audience that assembled, and an adjournment had to be made to the open air, and, from the steps of the Town Hall, the speakers addressed some 1500 persons, the proceedings being presided over by Mr Robert Anderson, writer. The principal speaker at the meeting was Mr J. A. H. (now Sir James) Murray, who moved a resolution calling upon the House of Commons to request their Committee to inform the House of the grounds on which they had come to their decision. The local controversy waged fiercely and Bailie Oliver, who had been appointed to the chief magistrate's chair the previous October, resigned his seat. In the course of an address, which the Bailie issued to the burgesses, he said, "I feel deeply the uncourteous manner I have been treated by various resolutions an over-ruling section of the Council, actuated by party spirit, have passed regarding the course I have believed it my duty to pursue, and, as I cannot for a moment submit to be the mere automaton of a dominant party, I think you will agree with me that the only course I have left is to place my resignation in your hands."

An appeal was taken to the House of Lords against the decision of the Parliamentary Committee, when the Langholm Bill was thrown

out, though, on a merely technical objection, the President of the Committee of appeal stating:—"I am directed by the Committee to state that they are unanimously of opinion that the facts developed in agreements with the contractors are so objectionable that they ought not to be countenanced by Parliament, and that they have resolved, on this account, to report to the House that the preamble of the Bill is not proved."

In 1859 the struggle was renewed before Parliament by the opposing factions with undiminished determination, and on Tuesday, 22nd March, it was announced that the Liddesdale party had triumphed. The gratifying news was received in Hawick by telegraph, about three o'clock that afternoon, Mr Thomas Purdom being the recipient of the first message from London. Immediately the town was in a wild tumult of excitement; joy bells were rung, flags were speedily hoisted, and the factories and workshops were at once deserted. The Saxhorn Band paraded the streets playing inspiring airs, and a placard with the words "Truth and Justice Triumphant: Liddesdale for Ever," was borne aloft through Hawick and Wilton, by Mr Daniel Stewart, of Wilton Dean, one of the most enthusiastic supporters of the Liddesdale line. In the evening fire-works were set off, and bonfires were lighted in the neighbourhood. The enthusiasm was unbounded, and until a late hour in the evening the streets wore a busy and animated appearance. At seven o'clock Bailie Paterson, and a number of the leading inhabitants had a congratulatory meeting in the Town Hall, when the health of Mr Hodgson, the chairman of the North British Company, was proposed in felicitous terms by Mr Thomas Laidlaw, manufacturer, and the toast was most enthusiastically received. A large number of toasts were honoured, and songs were rendered by various members of the company, Mr William Laidlaw, senior, giving the old version of the Common-Riding song with great spirit.

The return of the Liddesdale witnesses was made the occasion for further demonstrations. On the Wednesday afternoon several gentlemen who had been in London were met at the station by the Saxhorn Band, and played to the Tower Knowe amid many



Mr WALTER LAING,  
a strenuous supporter of the Langholm line.



manifestations of rejoicings. A special ovation was, however, reserved for the recognised local champion of the cause—Mr Walter Wilson, manufacturer (afterwards of Orchard.) Mr Wilson, who had laboured most assiduously on behalf of the Liddesdale scheme, was met at the station, on Thursday evening, by Bailie Paterson and an immense crowd of supporters. As he emerged from the railway platform a procession was formed, headed by Mr Wilson, who was supported on his right by Bailie Paterson, and on his left by Mr Robert Anderson, writer, another townsman who had fought consistently and valiantly on behalf of the scheme. Preceded by the Saxhorn Band the large procession, with numerous standard-bearers marched to the Tower Knowe, the streets being lined by vast crowds, who accorded Mr Wilson a most enthusiastic reception. On arrival at the Tower Knowe the processionists retraced their steps to the Town Hall from the stairs of which Bailie Paterson and Mr Anderson extended a hearty welcome home to Mr Wilson, on the exceedingly satisfactory conclusion of his labours in London.

One of the advantages strongly urged in favour of the Liddesdale line was its connection with the Border Counties Railway to Newcastle, by which direct communication would be opened with the Plashetts coal fields, from which a considerable supply of excellent coal could be drawn at a reasonable railway freight. The Plashetts coal was held in high repute by the inhabitants, and, for many years, a North Tyne carrier named Isaac Dagg, had brought a weekly load from that district. Amid the unbounded enthusiasm which prevailed, it was resolved to give Dagg little short of a royal welcome on his first visit after the news was received of the passing of the Liddesdale Bill, his admirers apparently overlooking the fact that the opening up of the railway sounded the death-knell to his employment as a carrier to Hawick. On the Wednesday afternoon a hurriedly improvised reception committee soon made the necessary arrangements, and the Saxhorn Band, accompanied by a large crowd, with banners flying, proceeded to the Deanbrae Toll-Bar to await Dagg's arrival there. He was known to be very methodical and punctual in all his movements, and, at the

expected hour, Dagg appeared in sight. Like Byron, Dagg became famous in a day, though what he had done to make himself so he must have been greatly at a loss to know. Probably he never troubled his head about the why or the wherefore. Dagg was profusely decorated with tri-colour ribbons, as was also his horse, and, with the band in front, a start was made for the town, the crowd swelling as the burgh was approached, and, assuming enormous proportions, as the procession wended its way along the High Street to the lively airs of the musicians. All along the route the veteran carrier was received with rounds of cheering. At the Crown Hotel Mr Dagg was hoisted shoulder high, and, with a piece of coal in each hand, he was borne in triumph through the Tower Knowe, up Buccleuch Street, and the Green Wynd, down the Rows and Howegate, and back to the Hotel.

An important day for the town was Wednesday, 7th September, 1859, when the construction of the new line was begun by the first sod being cut by Mrs Hodgson, wife of the Chairman of the North British Company. Great preparations had been made for the event, and the day was observed as a holiday. Work in factory and workshop was entirely suspended, and the people made merry. Unfortunately, the fly in the ointment was the weather, the day turning out wet and disagreeable. This had, however, little effect in damping the enthusiasm of the crowd, and the entire proceedings were carried through in the most successful manner. The town was resplendent with flags and triumphal arches. Various worded mottoes occupied prominent positions among the decorations, one which attracted considerable attention being "Vive le Hodgson," the Chairman of the North British Company being the local idol of the hour. A great procession mustered at the Town Hall at ten o'clock and marched four deep to the railway station, there to await the arrival of Mr and Mrs Hodgson, and numerous distinguished guests, as well as representatives from Edinburgh and all the Border towns. When all had arrived, the procession considerably augmented—was reformed and marched, by way of Bridge Street, High Street, and Slitrig Crescent, to the hillside overlooking Lynnwood House where the sod-cutting was performed.

A prominent feature in the procession was a barrow carried shoulder high by four stalwart navvies, a spade being carried aloft by another navvy. Music was provided by the Saxhorn Band, and by the band of the 16th Lancers. The Cornet of the year—Mr Walter Scott—with his right and left hand supporters, rode in front of the procession, which included a great number of carriages, but the one which was the cynosure of all eyes was that which contained Mrs Hodgson, Miss Hodgson, Sir Graham Montgomery, M.P. for Peeblesshire, and Mr Marshall, M.P. for East Cumberland, and was drawn by four beautiful horses.

The proceedings at Hardie's Hills were commenced by the Rev. John MacRae, who, in the course of prayer, supplicated that the work upon which they were now entering might "redound to the honour and advantage of its promoters, to the convenience of those amidst whose homes it is carried, to the benefit of agriculture, to the extension of the arts and manufactures of this town, and to the well-being of all its inhabitants." An address was then delivered by Mr Hodgson, and a bouquet of flowers having been deposited on the exact spot where the sod was to be lifted, Mrs Hodgson, amid rounds of applause, performed the duty in quite a workmanlike manner, the booming of a cannon announcing to the inhabitants for miles around that the work of constructing the long anticipated line had at last begun. The Rev. Adam Thomson, of the East Bank U.P. Church, congratulated Mr and Mrs Hodgson, and the shareholders of the Company on the successful issue of their efforts, and Bailie Paterson presented Mr Hodgson with the freedom of the burgh, remarking that already on the roll were such names as Prince Leopold, then king of the Belgians, Lord Brougham, Lord John Russell, and Louis Kossuth. After more speechmaking the procession was reformed, and a return to the town was made. Later a banquet was held in a large wooden erection in the Common Haugh, a company of 1200 being presided over by Mr Hodgson. In the same building a ball was held in the evening, at which over a thousand ladies and gentlemen were present.

The making of the new line, and the construction of the Whitrope Tunnel occupied over two-and-a-half years, and gave employment to



Mr WILLIAM CROZIER,  
many years landlord of the Tower Hotel, and one of the last  
drivers of the mail coach between Hawick  
and Carlisle

a large number of workmen. Most of them were accommodated in huts near Shankend; and, as may be readily supposed, the presence of so many navvies, the majority of them with but small respect for law and order, made the district for the time being extremely rough and dangerous. The existence of such a colony had, however, a very beneficial effect upon the trade of the town, and several classes of shopkeepers, particularly grocers, butchers, bakers, and publicans reaped an excellent harvest; there being an almost continuous stream of merchants' carts and bakers' vans on the road between Hawick and Shankend. On the Saturdays large crowds of navvies flocked to the town, and lively scenes invariably followed. The small and undisciplined police force then in charge of the burgh was utterly unfit to deal with the lawless crowd. Inflamed with drink, as many of them soon became, street brawls and fights were of common occurrence. Disputes were quickly settled with a knock-down blow: the idea of the assaulted party seeking the protection of the law was scoffed at. A prisoner at the bar of the Police Court one Monday morning was admonished by Bailie Waugh for taking the law into his own hands. "Oh!" said the prisoner, "my companion struck the first blow, and, of course, I knocked him down". "But," said the Bailie, "you should have sent for the police." "What," said the navvy, "send for the police? It was not worth while sending for the police for a thing like that; I could settle the job myself a deal handier." Most of these men were heavy drinkers, and once in town, few thought of returning to the huts until their last penny was spent. With the laxity which prevailed in administering the licensing laws no difficulty was experienced in obtaining drink at any hour of the day or night, and, throughout the whole Sunday, so long as the money to pay for it was forthcoming. As a consequence, this deplorable condition of affairs made for public disorder, and the scenes of riotous drunkenness to be constantly observed on the streets on Sundays were of a scandalous description.

These men—most of them, at any rate—lived for the day and gave no thought for the morrow. Ignorant and illerate, toiling wanderers, with no ties of home and friendship, their one insatiable craving was



for drink. It was their common enemy, a foe with which they had ceased to grapple. When illness or accident overtook them—and accidents were numerous—they were removed to the Poorhouse, and when death ended their sufferings they filled nameless graves in the Wellogate Cemetery.

One of the most serious outbreaks of lawlessness, which marked their presence in this neighbourhood, took place in connection with the celebration of St Patrick's Day, by the Irish navvies, in 1842. Saturday, 17th March, was what was known as one of the big pay days, a considerable number of the labourers receiving, on that day, the larger proportion of their month's wages. With a fairly plentiful supply of money in their pockets, and the Monday following being a holiday in memory of Ireland's Saint, a rather rough time was anticipated. The events which transpired, however, far surpassed, in seriousness, what were feared, and, for some days afterwards, highway robberies were numerous between Hawick and Shankend.

On the Saturday night a band of Irishmen entered the "Turf Hotel," near Langleburnshiels, where five or six Scotch and English labourers were lodged. They attacked these men, and severely beat them. One of the victims lay insensible on the floor of the hut all night, and another, who fled from the premises, could not walk farther than the cottage on Berryfell Plain, where he stayed the remainder of the night. Next morning he was visited by Dr Dinwiddie, who, at that time, was assisting Dr McLeod, and, after his wounds were dressed, was removed in a cart to the Hawick Poorhouse. It was found that he was suffering serious injuries caused by kicks and blows; his face and head were terribly cut, and so serious was his condition that the Procurator Fiscal took his deposition. The Irishmen seized all the drink and food in the hotel, and smashed the furniture, the doors, and the windows. Mrs MacDonald, who occupied the premises, escaped with her children, and remained all night on the hills, the men staying in the house, of which they kept possession for some days. A similar outrage was perpetrated the same night at Mr MacDonald's dwelling-house at Lincolnhedge. On the Monday night another gang broke into a hut

at Shankend, and brutally assaulted a man who had taken refuge there. A number of his teeth were knocked out, and his injuries were so serious that Dr McLeod had to be sent for. During the week, carts from Hawick, belonging to Mr James Turnbull, grocer; Mr Mabon, grocer; Mr Mable, carrier; and others, were waylaid and emptied of their contents, a large quantity of whisky and ale being thus stolen. The Irishmen took a jar of treacle from Mr Mabel's cart, but, on discovering what it contained, returned it to him and demanded whisky in exchange. On the Monday, as Mr John Riddle, clothier, High Street, and Mr James Swan, grocer, High Street, were proceeding to Whitrope on business, they were made to "stand and deliver," but, fortunately, got away on giving the men a small sum. The aggressors were all Irishmen, and so much animosity had they shown, for some time, towards the English labourers, that most of the latter had left the works. A man who was killed at a blast on the Tuesday happened to be an Irishman, and his countrymen, believing that his death was owing to the negligence of two Highlanders, who were working beside him, threatened to murder all the Scotsmen they found on the line when they returned from his funeral, which they attended in a body. So seriously was the threat taken that several of the Scotsmen left their work immediately.

The disorderly scenes in the neighbourhood of Shankend on the Monday and Tuesday had never been equalled during the whole progress of the work. Crowds of men were to be seen brawling and fighting at practically every turn of the road, and it would have been most dangerous for the limited police force to have interfered. On the Wednesday, Sheriff Russell, Mr Stevenson, Procurator-Fiscal, along with the Chief Constable, and a strong body of police from Jedburgh, visited Shankend, but found the peaceably disposed labourers very unwilling to give any information against the offenders, in dread of retaliation. A lengthened investigation took place in the Tower Hotel on the Thursday, when a number of witnesses were examined. In Hawick, considerable disorder took place during the Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, drunken navvies being met in all directions. Fortunately, they were sharply looked after by the burgh police, and prevented from



FOUNDERS OF THE HAWICK ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Dr J. A. H. MURRAY.  
WILLIAM NORMAN KENNEDY.

ALEXANDER MICHIE.  
GEORGE WEBSTER.

JAMES THOM.  
ROBERT MICHIE.

doing really serious mischief. A great number of them were apprehended for drunkenness and breaches of the peace, and during the week passed the bar of the Police Court. So serious did affairs look at one time at Shankend, that it was considered that it might be necessary to send for a body of soldiers to quell the disturbance.

The great undertaking was, however, at last completed, and, on Monday, 30th June, 1862, as already mentioned, the mail coach made its last run from Hawick to the South. For some little time previously its run had been curtailed owing to a partial opening of the line, as, for a few months it had gone no farther than Scotsdyke, and, for a short while, only to the end of the Canonbie branch at Rowanburn Colliery. The final journey was made a special one, and large numbers of people turned out to witness the mail leave the Tower Hotel for the last time, and mark the passing of an institution which had served the public well in its day and generation. The proprietors of the coach occupied the vehicle themselves along with a few invited friends, the party numbering in all about a dozen. They were accompanied by Bandmaster Teal and Sergeant Bunyan of the 5th Roxburgh Volunteer Band, these musicians discoursing cornet selections on the way. The team of four horses bore silver-mounted harness, and Mr Crozier of the Tower Hotel, one of the old drivers, handled the reins. All along the route people turned out to have a farewell look at the mail as it passed. The party were joined at Northhouse by Mr Fenwick, late landlord of the Tower, and long one of the proprietors of the coach, and Mr Robert Govenlock, Teindside, the son of another proprietor who did not live to see its last departure from Mossbail, where he had lived. As the coach drove into Langholm, which was its destination, a large crowd welcomed its arrival. It pulled up at the Crown Hotel, where the travellers were cordially received by Mr and Mrs Leithead, who had an excellent dinner ready. A pleasant time was spent in talking over old coaching days, and recalling many interesting reminiscences, and next day the company returned to Hawick by train.

On the morning of Tuesday, 1st July, the railway to the South was opened for regular passenger traffic, and a considerable crowd gathered at the station to witness the arrival of the first train from Carlisle. It was due to arrive about eight o'clock, but, owing to the late arrival of the London express at Carlisle, in connection with which it was run, it was close on nine o'clock before it made its appearance. As it ran into the station it was received with much cheering. Almost simultaneously the morning train from Edinburgh drew up at the south platform, and it was joined by a number of passengers, some travelling south on business, others taking short pleasure runs, no doubt, to be able to say, in future years, that they had travelled south with the first train that left Hawick.



## THE COMMON-RIDING.

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**D**ENUDED of all municipal patronage, and, practically, of all civic recognition, the Common-Riding functions of half-a-century ago were not carried through on the elaborate and imposing scale with which the present generation is familiar. In the early sixties the only connecting link which remained between the Town Council and the Common-Riding was the nominal election of the Cornet by the Council, and, even over that slight connection, considerable controversy waged, a number of the members of the municipal body being very strongly opposed to being identified in any way with the festival on account of the excessive drinking and other evils which they maintained had become associated with it. Undoubtedly, it was a fact that a very large section of the inhabitants gave no countenance whatever to the proceedings.

Between 1854 and 1860 the Common-Riding had undergone many changes. The sale of the under portion of the Common Haugh (on which the Urban Electric Works, and other buildings, now stand) to the Railway Company in 1847, and the withdrawal of its use for the festival, after 1854, was regarded by many supporters of the Common-Riding as one of the greatest blows that institution had ever received. From its central position, and its general adaptability for horse-racing and promenading the Haugh had, for generations, been the great centre of attraction. When the Cornet and his supporters returned to the town from the Moor, on the Friday afternoon, they proceeded to the Haugh. Thrice round the Haugh they went, the first round being done at a walking pace, the second at a canter, and the third at a furious gallop, the horsemen always receiving the cheers of a large and enthusiastic crowd. Horse-racing also took place on the Haugh on the Saturday afternoon.



THE COMMON-RIDING IN THE UNDER HAUGH:

A reproduction of a painting by Mr Andrew Kennedy.

In 1854 the present race-course at St Leonards was opened, the races having been previously run on Pilmuir Rig, and that year was the last in which races were run on the Haugh. To make the closing scene more memorable a gold nugget as a prize was sent by Hawick Callants in Melbourne, and 1854 was long spoken of as "the nugget year." The race was run on the Saturday afternoon, in two heats, the distance being four times round the Upper and Under Haughs. The nugget was worth thirty sovereigns, and to it was added a sweepstake of three sovereigns. Four horses entered, and, amid a scene of the greatest excitement, Mr Binnie's "Cook" won. Though the Under Haugh was not used by the Railway Company for a station, as had been originally intended, it was, in 1854, leased to a local gentleman, who refused its use for the Common-Riding. This raised considerable feeling, the prevailing opinion being that the races should be continued on the Haugh, and, with the object of rousing local sentiment, a public meeting was arranged for, and a placard with the following appeal was issued:—

"At the meeting, which is to be held in the Town Hall on Monday evening, it is certain that questions deeply affecting our 'time-honoured festival' will be discussed. In the first place, two of the questions are, 'will the gallop by the Cornet, the married men, and the burleymen, on their return from the Moor; and, also, the racing on the Common Haugh on the Saturday afternoon be continued as usual or swept away?' Secondly—'Should the latter alternative be resolved upon, what will be the next best arrangement?'

"These two questions are of vital importance, and it is to attract all true supporters of the Common-Riding to attend, discuss, and vote upon the matter that they are now briefly addressed. The two questions can only be properly set at rest by a clear and decided expression of the popular voice. Those who value Hawick Common-Riding as a horse-racing transaction—as an engine of betting—who esteem other turf meetings, viewed through the typed medium of 'Bell's Life,' in preference to their own occurrence, which they behold with their naked eyes—these parties are not the men to settle the matter faithfully.

"Give us those who love the Common-Riding chiefly for its local, its ancient, and its romantic associations, who place the annual outburst in the 'leafy month of June' before everything else—Doncaster not

excepted. These are the men that are most likely to transmit the exciting period unimpaired to posterity. Meanwhile, till the meeting weigh the questions deliberately!"

The meeting was held on the evening of the 11th May, in the Town Hall, and was very largely attended, the feeling being practically unanimous in favour of the proceedings being continued in the Haugh. Some of those, however, who desired to see all the races run at the Moor, used what influence they possessed with the lessee, and though the secretary of the Trades' Committee and others laid before that gentleman the resolution of the public meeting he refused to alter his decision, and, as a consequence, the ceremonies of the Common-Riding of 1855 were much modified and curtailed.

Between the periods named the Common-Riding also suffered not a little at the hands of the municipal authorities. From time immemorial it had been the custom of the Magistrates and Council to elect a certain number of burleymen from the burgesses to accompany the junior bailie in riding the marches, due notice being sent to each of those selected. So long as that practice was followed things went well, but in 1855 no special election was made, the chief magistrate simply moving that as many burgesses as might feel disposed were appointed burleymen to ride the marches. In 1856 the appointment was made in the same apathetic manner, and, after that year, the turnout of magistrates and burleymen was discontinued. That year the civic dignitaries also sought to dissociate themselves from the election of the Cornet. The election was made as usual by the Council at a meeting on the 16th May, but the gentleman elected not accepting office, it was resolved at another meeting of Council held on the 19th, in the circumstances, not to elect another Cornet in his place, and, that in future years it be left to the lads to elect their own Cornet. In this dilemma the Trades' Committee called a public meeting by tuck of drum, and the Town Hall was filled to overflowing. By acclamation Mr Adam Knox, flesher, Wilton Path, was elected, and accepted office, and all passed off well. When the time came round, in 1857, to make arrangements for the approaching festival the question, "How is the

Cornet to be elected?" was discussed at a public meeting, and the unanimous finding of the meeting was that it should be by the Town Council. With this end in view the following petition was drawn up, circulated through the town, and signed by an immense number of the inhabitants:—

"Unto the Honourable the Magistrates and Town Council of Hawick. Humbly sheweth, That your honours resolved, last year, to discontinue the election of the Cornet, and leave it to a public meeting.

"That your petitioners are of opinion this resolution is fraught with danger, and may lead to the total extinction of the Common-Riding—a festival which has been the delight of the people of Hawick for a long series of years, and is still welcomed with pleasure and enthusiasm by the present generation. That your petitioners found this conviction on the grounds that the Cornetship is the most important element in the festival, the keystone of the arch on which it rests. He has to collect the greater portion of the money; and, it is vain ever to expect, that, in a town like Hawick, destitute of resident and sporting gentry, with a community engaged in manufacturing operations, that a number of persons will come forward, annually, and canvass the town, or subscribe liberally themselves, to save the necessity of a general collection. That your petitioners have also to state that, independent of a Cornet's usefulness, he is also ornamental, and constitutes the spring of the deep interest taken in the 'time-honoured festival.' There is a vast amount of romantic associations interwoven with the Cornetship which really form the charm and spirit about Hawick Common-Riding to be found nowhere in any event simply confined to horse-racing. That your petitioners believe, if the election of Cornet is not made by the Town Council as heretofore, the probability of not securing this very important personage is greatly increased.

"Your petitioners are aware that, legally, none can be made to accept the office, and this affects the choice of the Council as well as a public meeting; but, they proceed on the grand fact that the Council, as the representatives of the inhabitants, the seat of honour, influence, and authority, carries a force, a momentum which cannot be equalled, and must be more powerful in persuading the consent of the king of the day than any other method; and is, besides, the most appropriate way of showing respect to the person chosen, and, of promoting general harmony. That your petitioners having shown (however unworthy of the importance of the case) the Cornet's value practically, and, secondly, his value romantically, and thirdly, that the annual holiday would





ADAM KNOX  
(Right-Hand Man).

ANDREW LEYDEN  
(Cornet, 1857).

JOHN SCOTT  
(Left-Hand Man).

suffer, nay, its total destruction, were a Cornet awaiting, and, fourthly, the honour and persuasive powers the Council possess before any other possible body, and, lastly, calling upon your patriotic sentiments to weigh these in the scale, they humbly crave your honours to resume the office discharged from time immemorial to the manifest satisfaction of the industrious population of Hawick."

The petition was presented to the Council by Mr John Scott, designer (the Cornet of 1853) who, at that time, had a seat at the Council board as a representative of the Incorporated Weavers, and, by a large majority the Council rescinded their previous resolution and agreed to continue making the appointment.

The question was not, however, allowed to rest, for, in 1860, Bailie Purdom, as chief magistrate, again raised it, when a letter was read at the May meeting, from the Cornets of the two previous years, submitting the names of Mr John Scott, clerk, Plough Inn, and Mr John Park, draper, High Street, for the office of Cornet for that year. Bailie Purdom said he could take no part in the election of a Cornet as he considered the acceptance of the office about the worst thing for a young man. Several of the Councillors expressed surprise that anyone could maintain that the Cornetship had exercised an adverse influence on young men, Councillor George T. Pringle pointing out that he could mention Cornets who had led a long and exemplary life—could he point to a better instance than the Bailie's own father, Mr Robert Purdom, farmer, who was Cornet in 1803. In the course of the discussion which followed Bailie Fraser maintained that it was a duty incumbent upon the Town Council, and one which they must discharge. When the question had been debated at length a vote was taken when Mr Scott was chosen Cornet, the majority of the members of Council, however, declining to vote.

In 1861 Mr John Ferguson of the Railway Hotel (now Waterloo House) was chosen by the Council without demur, but, by the following May, a newly constituted Council had been elected under the powers contained in the Burgh Police Improvement Act of 1861. The May meeting of the Council in 1862 was presided over by Bailie Fraser,

Provost Wilson being from home on business. Three names were submitted for the office by the two previous Cornets, these being:—James Richardson, mason; Adam Hart, carter; and John Leithead, plasterer, and Bailie Fraser moved that Mr Richardson should be elected. This was at once opposed by Mr Peter Laidlaw, now of Galabrac, who was one of the representatives of Teviot Ward. Mr Laidlaw took up the position that if there were no use deviating from the past, then there was no necessity for a reformed Town Council. The position which Mr Laidlaw assumed, and, especially some of the remarks he made, gave rise to some bitter feeling among those who had, all their lives, supported the Common-Riding.

Mr Peter Laidlaw said he considered it a most unfortunate circumstance that the question of electing a Cornet should have been brought before the reformed Council of the burgh. He believed there was no precedent for such a course in the case of any reformed burgh. It was foreign to their duties, as Councillors, to interfere in such an affair. It was no good reason that a custom should be continued simply because it had hitherto been observed, and, there was no benefit accruing to the public from its observation which warranted them in proceeding in the matter. Besides, the Common-Riding was the remnant of a barbarous age—a custom verging into dotage, *sans* eyes, *sans* ears, *sans* everything—a mere shadow of what it once was—a mere burlesque, a mock pageantry, and he (Mr Laidlaw) would scorn to carry aloft the shred and patch of an emblem ignobly stolen from a sleeping enemy. He had got another reason to advance against the Council's interference, and he expected that, at least, would not be received with cheers and laughter. The election to the Cornetship had been the means of bringing many young men to a premature grave. There was no necessity for the young men asking the Council to elect a Cornet for them. If they were determined to have one, let the responsibility of the election remain with themselves. He was animated by the noblest and most patriotic of motives in refusing to sanction the Council's interference, and he hoped the reformed Council of the ancient Burgh of Hawick would adopt the amendment which he now proposed, viz., "That the Council decline to interfere in the matter."

Mr Laidlaw found ex-Bailie Purdom, who then was one of the Councillors for North High Street Ward, to largely endorse his views. Mr Purdom remarked that without agreeing with all the reasons

assigned by Mr Laidlaw for his amendment, he was quite at one with him in thinking that the Council should not interfere in the election for the last reason adduced. Looking back over the last twenty or thirty years, he thought there was too much reason to fear that Mr Laidlaw's conclusion was correct. If the young men were resolved to carry and escort the flag round the Common, it was for them to elect a Cornet for themselves. He had the strongest objections to being a party to put any young man in such a situation, and, would, therefore, second Mr Laidlaw's amendment.

Mr Walter Laing, manufacturer, one of the representatives of Wilton Ward, supported Bailie Fraser's motion. He said he could not agree with those who thought the election would be best left in the hands of the young men. If they were to have public sports in Hawick, the more countenance given to them by the authorities, the more likely they would be conducted in an orderly and decorous manner. It was quite proper that there should be a certain number of holidays in the year for the working classes, and, working men, should, now and then, have opportunities of enjoying their holidays in a proper and reasonable manner. They had various modes of employing their holidays. There were frequent cheap trips to Edinburgh, and, they would, most likely, soon be extended in other directions. But, there were abuses at these trips as well as at the Common-Riding, and, there was almost nothing—no kind of amusement, at least—that could not be decried on the ground that it was, in some cases, abused. If the Common-Riding was conducted as it might be, instead of being liable to abuse, it might prove one of the best means of enjoying the two holidays in June within the reach of the community generally. He thought, then, that the authorities, instead of leaving the matter entirely in the hands of the young men, should take some interest in the Common-Riding, and see that all the proceedings connected with it were conducted in a proper manner. If some of the gentlemen who deplored the dissipation on such occasions would endeavour to arrange for the erection of temperance tents on the Moor, the public might refresh and enjoy themselves without going to excess, and would not be compelled to go into tents where they could only get spirits or beer. It was, at all events, advisable, for the maintenance of good order, that the proceedings of the Common-Riding should be, in some measure, under the authority of the Council.

Within recent years the Town Council has followed on the lines indicated by Mr Laing, and the outcome has exceeded the most sanguine

expectations of those who have, all along, wished to see the festival conducted in a dignified and becoming manner. Mr John Paterson, mill manager, one of the South High Street ward representatives, appeared to be in some perturbation of spirit as to what electing a Cornet really committed the Council to, for he cautiously enquired if Mr Laing thought it was the duty of the Councillors to go out to Hawick Moor and take charge of the races. Half a century ago a great many leading townsmen declined to associate themselves with the Common-Riding, and would have considered it beneath their dignity to have discharged any duty in connection with the races. Times are, however, changed, and the Council now go to the Moor in a body, and, also, indirectly control the entire festival. And has anyone suffered by the change? Councillor Paterson reminded his colleagues that he had for many years been a member of the old or "eternal" Council, and that he had not been at the Common-Riding for a long time. Bailie Fraser, at this, naively observed that some men were apt to forget how keenly they themselves had once participated in the festival. Mr Thomas Laidlaw, Sillerbithall, thought all they were asked to do was to elect a Cornet as the old Council had done, and he saw no reason for refusing to do this, but Mr John Wilson, Ladylaw, thought **the young men should choose their own leader.** After further wrangling the Council divided and the motion to elect a Cornet was carried by the narrow majority of one. Only eleven out of the fifteen members of the Council were present, and the vote was as follows—To elect—Bailies Fraser and Waugh, Treasurer Turnbull, Councillors Thomas Laidlaw, James Oliver, banker, and Walter Laing; not to elect—Councillors Thomas Purdon, John Paterson, William Elliot, hosiery manufacturer, Peter Laidlaw, and John Wilson. Mr James Richardson was then duly elected Cornet, a result which was received with much applause by a large number of the public who had been present at the meeting of the Council, and who had followed the discussion with keen and lively interest.

Up till 1865, one of the most onerous duties connected with the Cornetship was collecting money for the races. During the early



part of the Common-Riding week the town was canvassed, and on the two days of the festival subscriptions were solicited from strangers present. The Cornet and his right-hand man began their work at ten o'clock on the Monday forenoon preceding the Common-Riding. Five pounds was considered a fair day's collection. Frequently the Cornet was so occupied with the collection that on the Thursday night, when he had to make his first public appearance in his official dress, with the sash of office around him, he had barely time to don his clothes. In the year 1865, when David Scott was Cornet, the Race Committee, a body formed, in addition to the older Trades' Committee, decided to relieve the Cornet and his right-hand supporter of this work. Collectors were appointed for each of the five municipal wards, and, another body of collectors, chosen to wait upon the manufacturers and other affluent citizens, in the hope of getting more liberal subscriptions. Another part of the new arrangement was that no stranger attending the races was asked to subscribe. The new method proved a success, and continued in force till 1883, when an entire change took place, a charge for entrance to the Moor being substituted.

The Colour-Bussing, which, since the institution of the Ceremonial Committee in 1887, has been such a prominent function at the Common-Riding was a matter of comparatively small concern in the sixties. The bussing took place at the residence of the senior bailie, or, failing that, at that of the junior magistrate, the last magistrate's house in which it was performed being Bailie Fraser's, in 1861. Afterwards it was performed at the hotel patronized by the Cornet, a few of the Cornet's lady friends being invited to sew on the ribbons, the invitation to the "lads" being of a public nature. After the flag had been duly decorated with ribbons, it was displayed from one of the windows of the hotel, but, of ceremony, there was none. Subsequently, the customary "walk" took place. In those days the Cornet and his supporters, headed by the drum and fife band, paraded the town on the night of his election, and, again, on the night of the May Hiring Fair, but both of these "walks" were discontinued nearly thirty years ago.

Up till 1859 the song had been sung from the top of "Tibbie th' Fiddler's" house in Millpath, a low thatched cottage that stood on the marches of the burgh property, and that of the Duke of Buccleuch, at a point where the railway bridge now spans the roadway. In 1860 the cottage was in process of being demolished to make room for the new railway, and, the song, that year, was sung on the ruins of the old homestead. Since then it has been sung from a platform erected as near to the old site as possible. The year 1859 was rather a memorable one, for, not only was it the last of Tibbie's cottage, but it was also the last in which Mr James Wilson, the venerable town clerk, headed the procession to the Moor, and the last in which the Rev. Mr Rodgie welcomed the Cornet at Myreslawgreen, on his return from the Moor on the Friday.

Among the older inhabitants the Common-Riding of 1862 is still vividly remembered, and is still familiarly spoken of by them as "Jim Richardson's year." Mr Richardson had a larger than usual number of supporters, but, unfortunately, the two days' proceedings were marred by a rainstorm and gale, the like of which, at the Common-Riding, could not be remembered by the oldest townsman. On the Tuesday preceding the Common-Riding there were several heavy showers, and, up till the Thursday night, the weather remained broken. "The night afore the morn" closed with the darkest prospects for the morrow. When the "drums and fifes" made the first round of the town at six o'clock on the Friday morning, there was no rain, but, the dull, leaden skies held out little hope that anything like a fine day would be experienced. As groups gathered on the High Street during the morning, the weather was the one topic of conversation, and few were optimistic enough to prognosticate a fine day. The exceedingly threatening aspect of the weather induced many to go no farther than the Loan or Thorterdykes, to see the Cornet's Chase, for, at that time, the horsemen started their gallop at the foot of the Loan, and finished at the foot of Haggrisha' brae. Nevertheless, a fairly large concourse of people wended their way to St Leonards. Until about mid-day the rain kept off, but, after the first race, it came down in torrents. The

crowd quickly perceived it was no passing shower, and many made straight tracks for home, while others sought what shelter could be got in the crowded and noisy tents on the hillhead. The horse races and foot races—in those days several foot races were run on the race course—were carried through by the Committee as best they could, and then a general stampede was made for the town. In the afternoon an attempt was made to start the Games in the Common Haugh, but as the torrential rainfall continued neither spectators nor competitors appeared in any numbers, and the Committee decided to abandon the sports for the day. The rain continued the entire evening, and the Haugh became a complete quagmire. During the night the wind rose, and increased in violence until it blew a perfect gale. The river rose, and overflowed its banks, and, for a while, a large part of the Haugh was under water.

In those days it was the custom for the games, on the Saturday, to be held in the forenoon, and the races at St Leonards in the afternoon. On the Saturday morning the atmospheric conditions improved a little, and the games were proceeded with amidst intermittent showers, and under most uncomfortable conditions, the ground being little better than a sponge. As the time for leaving for the Moor approached, the sky brightened a little, and, well provided with overcoats, for umbrellas were out of the question on account of the fury of the gale, many ventured to the race course. When the Moor was reached, the effects of the storm were plainly visible. The tents had been blown to pieces during the night, and the licence-holders had hastily arranged a few seats and tables for the accommodation of their customers, who had to sit in the open air and enjoy their refreshments as best they could, and in the face of one of the most severe gales that ever blew over Hawick Moor. The stewards' stand had also been blown down, and it was with some difficulty that a temporary erection was constructed for the convenience of the race officials. Though the wind continued to blow with much fury till the close of the races, only one or two slight showers fell, though the fear always prevailed that there might be a repetition of the deluge of the previous day.



CORNET RICHARDSON AND HIS EQUESTRIAN SUPPORTERS, 1862.



As already indicated the arrangements of the races and games were different in the early sixties from now. On the Saturday, the games were held in the Common Haugh in the forenoon, and the races at St Leonards did not commence till half-past two in the afternoon. Then a number of foot races were also run each day on the Moor. The race programme was a modest one compared with that of the present day. On the Friday only two races were run, exclusive of those for the Cornet and his supporters—a Purse of Twenty Sovereigns, with a sweepstake of one sovereign each, and a Purse of Eight Sovereigns, with a sweepstake of ten shillings each, both being run in heats. On the Saturday there were four events, but the prize money for the whole six events only amounted to £64. The gymnastic programme carried through at the Haugh was very small, and consisted of leaping, wrestling, putting the ball, and a sack race. “Jock” Bell was then in the hey-day of his career as an athlete, and generally carried off most of the prizes in connection with the leaping competitions. At the Friday’s Games in 1861 he was first in four of the five events for which he entered, and second in the remaining one. In the running hop-step-and-leap he covered a distance of 42 ft. 11½ ins.; in the standing hop-step-and-leap, 31 ft.; in the standing high leap, 4 ft. 4 ins.; and, in the running spring, 17 ft. 7 ins. In the running high leap, in which he took second place, he cleared 5 ft. 2 ins., this being beaten by Andrew Milne, Forfar, by 5 ins. In the hitch-and-kick, on the Saturday, Bell carried off first prize with a kick of 8 ft. 1 in. The wrestling competitions were always keenly contested, and there were invariably present the celebrated Dick Wright from Longtown, and other famous Cumberland wrestlers.



Subjoined is a copy of the Common-Riding bill issued for 1863:—

COMMON-RIDING—1863.

**H**AWICK RACES AND BORDER GAMES,  
June 5th and 6th, 1863.

STEWARDS.—The PROVOST and MAGISTRATES; Mr PETER PENNYCOOK of Newhall; Mr THOMAS BROWN, Ruletownhead; Mr GEORGE TURNBULL; Mr JOHN FRASER, Judge; Mr WILLIAM YOUNG, Trades' Steward; Mr ANDREW SMITH, Starter.

The Town's Standard to be borne by  
MR ADAM HART.

To be run for on ST LEONARD'S COURSE,  
on FRIDAY, the 5th day of June next:—

- 1.—A PURSE OF TWENTY SOVEREIGNS, with a Sweepstakes of One Sovereign each—Heats. Distance, One Mile. Weights—3 years, 7 stone—4 years, 8 stone 7 lb.—5 years, 9 stone—6 years and aged, 9 stone 4 lb.; Mares and Geldings allowed 3 lb., Half-breds, 4 lb.

CORNET'S SWITCHES AND SWEEPS as usual.

- 2.—A PURSE OF EIGHT SOVEREIGNS, with a Sweepstakes of 10s each Heats. Weights as above. Winner of 20 Sovereigns to carry 7lbs extra.

FOOT RACE OF 150 YARDS—1st, 10s; 2nd, 5s.

FOOT RACE OF 250 YARDS, with Hurdles—1st, 10s; 2nd, 5s.

FOOT RACE, Once Round the Course—1st, £1; 2nd, 10s; 3rd, 5s.

In the Afternoon the Games will commence in the  
Upper Common Haugh, at Four o'clock.

£5 to be Wrestled for by Men 11 Stones Weight—  
1st, £2 10s; 2nd, £1; rest divided accordingly.

1st Prize. 2nd Prize.

|                                |        |       |
|--------------------------------|--------|-------|
| Running Hop-Step-and-Leap..... | 10s 0d | 5s 0d |
| Standing Do. Do. ....          | 10s 0d | 5s 0d |
| Standing High Leap.....        | 10s 0d | 5s 0d |
| Running Do. ....               | 10s 0d | 5s 0d |
| Running Spring.....            | 10s 0d | 5s 0d |

On SATURDAY the Games will commence in the Upper Common Haugh, at 9 o'clock.

|                      | 1st Prize. | 2nd Prize. |
|----------------------|------------|------------|
| Hitch-and-Kick ..... | 10s 0d     | 5s 0d      |
| Heavy Ball .....     | 10s 0d     | 5s 0d      |
| Light Ball .....     | 10s 0d     | 5s 0d      |
| Pole Leap .....      | 15s 0d     | 7s 6d      |

If only Two Competitors for these Games, no Second Prize. Weight of Balls, 22lbs. and 6lbs.

SACK RACE of 80 Yards, with 2 Hurdles, 12 inches high—1st, 10s; 2nd, 5s—Heats.

£10 to be Wrestled for by Men of all Weights—(6d for Entry-Money for Wrestling)—1st, £5; 2nd, £2—and the rest divided accordingly.

To be Run for on ST LEONARD'S RACE-COURSE, on SATURDAY, the 6th June,  
1.—THE TOWN'S SUBSCRIPTION PLATE OF TWENTY SOVEREIGNS, with a Sweepstakes of One Sovereign each—Heats—Distance, 1 Mile. Weights as on Friday. Winner of Twenty Sovereigns on Friday to carry 14lb. extra.

FOOT RACE FOR BOYS UNDER 16 YEARS, 500 Yards—1st, 10s; 2nd, 5s; 3rd, 2s 6d.

300 YARDS RACE—1st, 10s; 2nd, 5s. 500 YARDS RACE—1st, 10s; 2nd, 5s.

HALF-MILE RACE—1st, 15s; 2nd, 7s 6d; 3rd, 2s 6d.

2.—THE OPERATIVE'S PURSE OF EIGHT SOVEREIGNS, with a Sweepstakes of 10s each—Heats—Distance 1 Mile. Weights as on Friday. Winner of Twenty Sovereigns to carry 7lbs. extra.

3.—THE LADIES' PURSE OF FIVE SOVEREIGNS—Catch Weight—Twice Round.

4.—A PURSE OF THREE SOVEREIGNS FOR BEATEN HORSES.

In all Sweep Races—Second Horse to save his Stake.

Sixpence a Pound on the added money charged on Booking for all the Races.


Horses booked for Friday's Races must be at the post, ready to start, precisely at 11 o'clock, and, for Saturday's Races, at 2 o'clock.

No Person giving or receiving a Bribe, or making a Juggle of any of the Races or Games will be allowed to receive any money given by the Racing or Gymnastic Fund; and, Persons so offending will be debarred from ever again running Horses, or entering the Ring at Hawick.

 Various Prizes will be run for during the two days.

Owners of Tents pay, when Burgesses, 2s 6d; Non-Burgesses, 3s 6d; Strangers, 5s—to be paid when tickets are claimed.

Three Horses to start for each of the principle prizes; and, all Horses must be entered with the Stewards at the Tower Inn on Thursday Evening at 7 o'clock. All disputes to be referred to the Stewards, whose decision shall be final.

 The Race-Course is greatly improved by Draining and Top-Dressing.

Hawick, 18th May, 1863.



"RODGIE O' THE GREEN."

Rev. Andrew Rodgie, 53 years minister of the Green Church.

As the Cornet and his supporters returned from the Moor on the Friday, Mr Rodgie yearly welcomed them, and sent his servant round with the bottle, the equestrians getting

"A guid, cauld cauker,  
Frae a man that was nae Quaker."

## THE VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT.

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THE Volunteer movement owed its origin in 1859 to the menace of France. In every populous town and district throughout the country companies were formed, and their services were gladly accepted by Lord Palmerston's Government. No promise of pecuniary aid or assistance was offered as an inducement for civilians to join the movement, yet, so readily and spontaneously did the citizens respond to the call to arms, that within a few months 100,000 Volunteers were enrolled. The patriotic spirit thus shown by "the nation of shopkeepers" was an astonishment to the world.

The first step taken in Hawick to form a corps was towards the end of 1859. Efforts, attended with success, had already been made in Jedburgh, Kelso and Melrose, towards the formation of companies, and it occurred to Mr William Elliot, hosiery manufacturer, that Hawick should not lag behind in the movement. Prompted by his father, Mr W. Scott Elliot (eventually Colonel of the Battalion), then a young man full of enthusiasm, energy, and patriotic ardour, interviewed Messrs Watson, Messrs Dicksons & Laings, and other manufacturers, and arranged for a preliminary meeting being held to consider the formation of a Hawick Company. The meeting was accordingly convened in the Town Hall on the evening of 8th December, 1859, when there were present Messrs G. H. Fraser, Thomas Lindsay Watson, William S. Elliot, G. W. Thomson, G. B. Jobson, Joshua Colledge, Walter Haddon, Robert Noble, Robert Ker, George Deans, James Grieve (Braxholme Braes), Adam Laidlaw, John Wilson, John Turnbull, William Davidson, James Grieve (warehouseman), and Robert Deans. Bailie Fraser presided over the gathering, and, after discussion, it was unanimously resolved that immediate steps should be taken to form a Rifle Corps

in Hawick, and those present formed themselves into a committee for the furtherance of the object, and agreed to procure names of parties willing to join, as well as to solicit subscriptions towards the necessary expenses. At another meeting held in the Tower Hotel on the 21st February, 1860, a committee, consisting of Bailie Fraser; Mr James Carmichael, solicitor and banker; Dr Thomson; Mr Francis Deans, postmaster; Mr William R. Wilson, manufacturer; and Mr Gilbert Davidson, banker, was appointed to wait upon Mr Chisholme of Stirches, and other county gentlemen, with the view of securing their support towards the movement, and of taking such other steps as they might deem advisable towards the speedy formation of the Corps. This committee carried out their duties satisfactorily, and were enabled to report to a meeting held on the 27th of the same month that they had seen Mr Chisholme, and that he was willing to give his support and services towards the formation of a Hawick Company.

A considerable number of members was soon obtained, and, on the 6th March, a formal offer, in the following terms, was made to the Government, through the Duke of Buccleuch, as Lord Lieutenant of the County:—

TO HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF BUCCLEUCH AND QUEENSBERRY, K.G.,  
Lord Lieutenant of the County of Roxburgh.

We, the undersigned, respectfully make offer of our services through your Grace, as Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of the County of Roxburgh, to serve as effective members of a Rifle Company to be called the Teviotdale Rifle Corps.

Should our offer of service be accepted through your Grace's recommendation, by the Government, we bind ourselves to take the oath of allegiance, and to submit to the provisions of the Act 44, George III., Cap. 54, and to the terms of the circulars issued by the War Office regulating such Corps. Further, we bind ourselves to provide our own clothing and equipments, and to provide drill practice ground, and a store for arms with a person to take charge of same, to the satisfaction of your Grace, at the expense of the Corps.



(Signed)

|                                     |                                    |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| John Scott Chisholme, Stirches.     | Francis Deans, postmaster.         |
| William Scott Watson, Burnhead.     | Simon D. Graham, draper.           |
| James Carmichael, banker.           | Walter Laing, Spring Bank.         |
| George W. Thomson, M.D.             | William Dickson, manufacturer.     |
| George H. Fraser, Magistrate.       | John Scott, foreman.               |
| Dr M'Leod, L.R.C.S.                 | John Cramond, seed merchant.       |
| James Elliot, manufacturer.         | William Reid, Greensidehall.       |
| William S. Elliot, manufacturer.    | Richard Lees, farmer, Drinkstone.  |
| G. W. Thomson, medical student.     | James Grieve, Branxholme Braes.    |
| Robert Ker, clerk.                  | J. MacRae, minister of Hawick.     |
| William Rodgie, National Bank.      | Walter Laurie, baker.              |
| Wr. Haddon, solicitor's apprentice. | William Wightman, grocer.          |
| Gilbert Davidson, banker.           | Henry Paterson, manufacturer.      |
| James Turnbull, seedsman.           | William R. Wilson, manufacturer.   |
| George Turnbull, seedsman.          | R. F. Watson, manufacturer.        |
| James Morrison, clerk.              | William Roper, stockingmaker.      |
| George Brown, merchant.             | George Crosbie, woolsorter.        |
| Thomas H. Hopper, druggist.         | George Bunyan, hairdresser.        |
| Robert Noble, salesman.             | James Riddell, stockingmaker.      |
| John Park, merchant.                | Stephen Teal, weaver.              |
| William Crichton, bookseller.       | James Elliot, stockingmaker.       |
| Adam Laidlaw, jun., clerk.          | James Inglis, stockingmaker.       |
| Robert Deans, British Linen Bank.   | John Oliver, stockingmaker.        |
| William Wood, draper.               | Walter Sutherland, warehouseman.   |
| Adam Paterson, foreman.             | John J. Bowden, millwright.        |
| James Oliver, auctioneer.           | Thomas Scott, clerk, Wilton Mills. |
| Charles Anderson, clerk.            | George B. Jobson, agent, Wilton.   |
| John Anderson, writer's apprentice. | James Paisley, agent, Wilton.      |
| Alexander M. Gaul, printer.         | Joshua S. Colledge, jun., clerk.   |
| Thomas L. Watson, manufacturer.     | James Law, woolsorter, Wilton.     |
| James Grieve, warehouseman.         | Frank Scott, woolsorter.           |
| John L. Oliver, warehouseman.       | Thomas C. Laidlaw, mason.          |
| Robert Young, foreman.              | Charles J. Wilson, manufacturer.   |
| George Deans, cashier.              | John Anderson, draper.             |
| John Young, baker.                  | John Connell, joiner, High Street. |
| Alexander R. Turnbull, dyer.        | Andrew Elliot, stockingmaker.      |
| John Turnbull, dyer.                |                                    |

On the 21st March Mr Chisholme reported to the Committee that he had had an interview with the Lord Lieutenant, who had sanctioned the formation of the Corps, which was to be known as "The Upper



CAPTAIN JOHN SCOTT CHISHOLME OF STIRCHES.

Teviotdale Rifle Corps." Efforts were accordingly made to at once further augment the strength of the Company, and, after some consideration it was, on the 28th of that month, resolved to admit a limited number of additional members, whose expenses of equipment should be limited to thirty-five shillings, subject to the condition that on any individual leaving the corps his equipment should be returned to the commanding officer.

It was resolved to adopt grey as the colour of the uniform, and, after samples had been received from three manufacturing firms, an order was placed with Messrs Wilson & Armstrong, Weensland Mills, for 300 yards of cloth. At a meeting of the Corps on the 13th June, Mr Chisholme submitted a letter from the Duke of Buccleuch, intimating Her Majesty's acceptance of the services of the Company, and announcing that the Corps had been numbered as the 4th in the County of Roxburgh, and that its maximum establishment would consist of one captain, one lieutenant, one ensign, and 100 men of all ranks.

Unfortunately, some difficulty immediately arose with regard to the appointment of the two commissioned officers. Mr Chisholme had, from the start of the movement been looked upon as Captain of the Company, but it was alleged by a considerable number of the volunteers that that gentleman had pledged himself not to nominate anyone for the lieutenantancy or ensignship without consulting the Corps. It having been learned, towards the end of June, that Mr William Scott Watson of Bucklands, and Mr William Dickson of Wellfield, had been respectively nominated for these positions, Bailie Fraser, at drill one night, made the announcement, and suggested that drill should be suspended till Captain Chisholme had returned from London. Acting upon the Bailie's suggestion a number left the ranks. Some rather lively and stirring meetings followed, and, eventually, 41 members resigned, and, at a public meeting, on 11th August, it was resolved that another Company should be formed in town to be known as "The Hawick Volunteer Corps."

The vacancies thus unexpectedly caused in the ranks of the 4th Roxburgh Company were soon filled, and at a meeting on the

17th July, it was reported that Mr Scott Watson and Mr Dickson had received their commissions. Mr James Carmichael was then elected honorary secretary to the Corps, a position which he filled till his death in 1873. The fact that members had to pay for their own uniforms and accoutrements, as well as pay an annual subscription of ten shillings had necessarily a somewhat deterrent effect on the artisan classes coming forward and joining the ranks as readily as they would otherwise have done; and in order to stimulate a more active interest in the movement among working men, it was resolved, by a bye-law passed on the 25th July, to admit working men into the Corps on the payment of one pound, "in such proportions and at such periods as the Council shall determine." For this payment the members would receive complete uniforms and equipment the uniforms and equipment remaining, however, the property of the Corps. It was also decided that the annual subscription should be reduced from ten shillings to six shillings, payable in twelve monthly instalments. The bye-law began at once to have a beneficial effect, and within a week thirteen new members were admitted under its provisions, one of those being William Balmer, the old veteran soldier, who was so long one of the buglers of the Company, and who was familiarly known throughout the town as "Balmer the Bugler." There were thus for a considerable period two classes of volunteers, one known and referred to in the minute books as the "self-supporting" section, and the other that admitted under the bye-law.

The first non-commissioned officers of the 4th Company were appointed by a vote of the Company, and the first five sergeants elected were: Messrs Francis Deans, postmaster; Alexander Turnbull, dyer; John Scott, foreman; William S. Elliot, manufacturer; and James Turnbull, seedsman.

On the 27th November it was resolved to appoint Mr Francis Gray, Yeadon, near Leeds, as bandmaster, and, in the course of a few weeks, the band which continued for very many years to be referred to locally as "Stirches Band" was organised. The instruments were purchased in Edinburgh, and practice was commenced in the Ragged

School. To raise funds on behalf of the band a bazaar was held in the large room of the Tower Hotel, on Thursday, 27th September, 1860. There were in all six stalls, and the ladies in charge were:— Mrs Chisholme, Miss Walker, and the Misses Chisholme of Stirches; Mrs Watson of Bucklands; Misses Dickson of Chatto; Miss Ogilvie, Branhholme; Misses Turnbull, Burnfoot; Misses Grieve, Skelfhill; Miss Grieve, Branhholme Park; Miss Lockhart, Borthwickbrae; Miss Elliot, Linthill; Mrs Sprot of Riddell; Mrs Pringle and the Misses Pringle, Wilton Lodge; and Mrs Scott and the Misses Scott, Brieryyards. By this bazaar, which extended only over one day, the sum of £236 5s 9d was realized.

An object of much interest at the bazaar was the Hawick Volunteer Standard of 1799. This honoured relic of a former Volunteer Corps had been brought from Stirches House, under an escort, in charge of Sergeant W. S. Elliot. The flag occupied a prominent place in the room, and was regarded with much pride and affection. This emblem of other days, which now finds a resting place in the Hawick Museum, had been presented by Mrs Chisholme of Stirches, to the Hawick Volunteers at the inspection in the Common Haugh in July, 1799. It measures six feet six inches square, is of silk, and has a purple or mazarine blue ground, on which is laid a St Andrew's Cross of white silk. In the centre is a large Scotch thistle in coloured silk needlework, surmounted by a Royal Crown, and, in the three upper divisions of the cross, is the device "G. III. R." It also bears the scroll, "Hawick Military Association." This corps of Volunteers was embodied in the summer of 1798, owing to the apprehended invasion of Britain by the French army of the Revolution, the Captain Commandant being Mr Gilbert Chisholme of Stirches, father of Captain John Scott Chisholme. After the Treaty of Amiens was signed, in 1802, the Corps was disbanded.

For some years the armoury of the Upper Teviotdale Corps was the County Police Station at the foot of Slitrig Crescent. In the winter months drill was gone through in the Tower Hotel ballroom, and in the summer in one of the parks at Stirches. The first drill instructor was Sergeant Marshall, a veteran of the old school, but, after





COLONEL WILLIAM SCOTT ELLIOT

a few months' service, he was succeeded by Sergeant Hutton from Stirling Castle, who remained in the position for several years. After the embodiment of the Corps, drill was entered upon with much zest by most of the members, and one squad of enthusiastic followers used to march out to Stirches every summer's morning, at seven o'clock, for instruction. In May, 1863, the Denholm Volunteers, to the number of 31, who had previously been attached to the Jedburgh Corps, joined the Hawick Company. Mr Andrew Haddon of Honeyburn, was at that time a sergeant in the Denholm Company, and he was unanimously elected an extraordinary member of the Council of the Hawick Corps. In 1864 a second company was formed, and the increased strength of the detachment soon made the want of a suitable drill hall acutely felt, and this was eventually secured by the erection of the building (now St Mary's Church Hall) at the foot of the Millpath, the cost being defrayed by a three days' bazaar.

To encourage shooting among the Volunteers the ladies of Hawick and neighbourhood, in 1861, subscribed for a handsome Silver Cup to be shot for annually, the first winner being Mr James Grieve, Branxholme Braes. In 1862 Mrs Scott Chisholme of Stirches presented a handsome silver medal to go along with the Cup, and, in 1863, Mrs Pringle of Wilton Lodge, presented a similar medal, both of which were won by Sergeant W. Scott Elliot.

The Volunteers who resigned from the Upper Teviotdale Corps on account of their dissatisfaction with the method by which the two commissioned officers were appointed proceeded to form another company, and, permission having been granted by the military authorities for the establishment of a second corps in Hawick, Provost George Wilson was secured as Captain. It was decided that the new company should be designated "The Hawick Volunteer Corps," and be known in military circles as the 5th Roxburgh. On the afternoon of Saturday, 6th January, 1861, the members were duly sworn in at a meeting in the Town Hall, when it was agreed to recommend Bailie George Hardy Fraser as lieutenant, and Mr Robert F. Watson, manufacturer, as ensign. The following non-commissioned officers

were appointed:—Colour-Sergeant, Mr Hugh Michie; sergeants, Messrs William R. Wilson, Charles John Wilson, Andrew Paterson, Thomas Watson, Thomas Cathrae; corporals, John Ferguson, William Kyle (mason), William Kyle (foreman), Thomas Richardson, John Anderson; lance-corporals, John Paisley, Walter Laurie, William Wood, and John Kyle. It was also announced that the Corps had rented from the North British Railway Company, the Under Haugh, for drill purposes, and that the Provost had received intimation that the War Office had approved of ground for a 1000 yards rifle range at Hawick Moor.

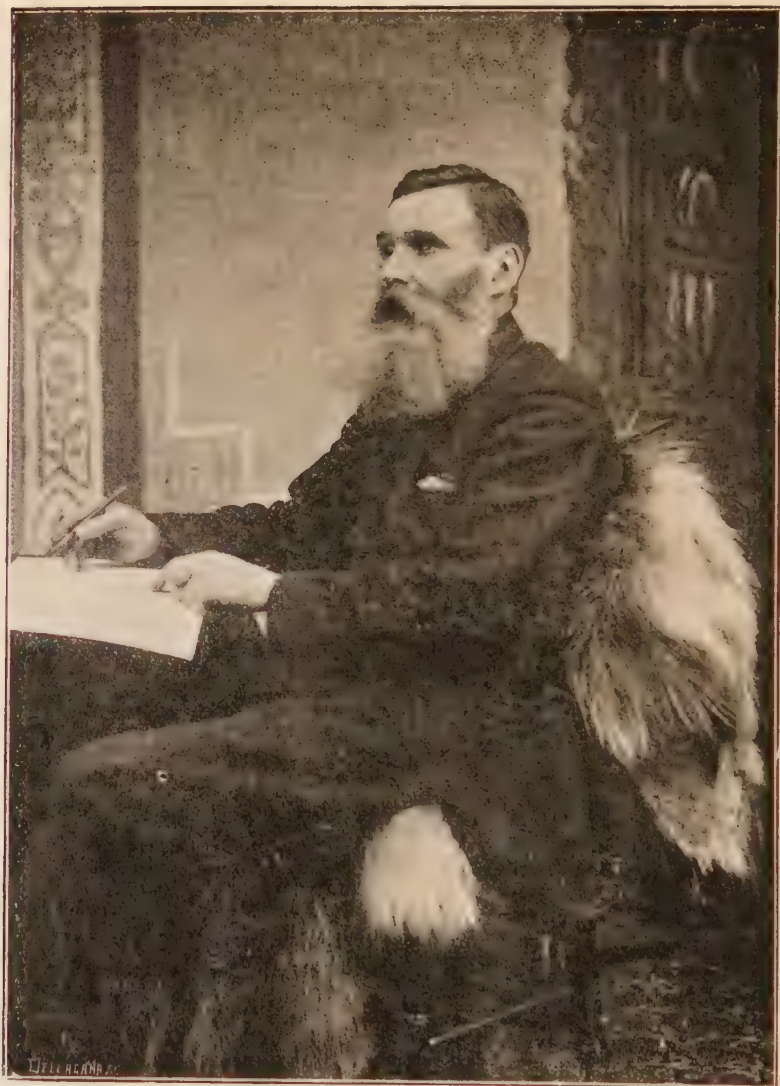
In the following May a successful three days' bazaar, in aid of the funds of the Corps, was held in the Tower Hotel, the free proceeds of which amounted to £322 3s 9d. Among the visitors at the bazaar were Captain Chisholme and Ensign Dickson of the 4th Roxburgh, who, it may be presumed, were anxious to hold out the olive branch. The Hawick Corps gained in strength and efficiency, and, no doubt, the friendly rivalry which prevailed helped considerably to stimulate both companies to excel in proficiency in their shooting and drill. Like a bolt from the blue, however, an unfortunate little episode, which occurred in the Tower Hotel on the New Year's morning of 1863 led within a year to the break-up of the Hawick Corps. On Old Year's night the Upper Teviotdale Volunteers had a ball in the Hotel, to which a number of the officers and non-commissioned officers of the Hawick Corps had received invitations, but, through some mistake, no invitation had been received by Lieutenant Fraser. In the early hours of New Year's morning Lieutenant Fraser had called at the Tower Hotel along with Ensign R. F. Watson, and had joined a mixed company in the commercial room. While there, a member of the party enquired if Bailie Fraser had been at the ball, and the reply was that he did not care to be mixed up in any way with the "dirty 4th." Ensign Dickson, who was in the room at the time, warmly resented such an opprobrious epithet being applied to his Corps and at once requested Lieutenant Fraser to withdraw it. This he refused to do, and stronger words followed, Mr Dickson having to make a hasty exit

from the room. On the afternoon of the same day Mr Dickson wrote to Bailie Fraser demanding "a full and humble apology," which he intimated he would consider himself at liberty to make any use of he pleased. The Bailie ignored the letter, and Mr Dickson lodged a complaint with Captain Chisholme, who carried it forthwith to Lord Polwarth, the Lieutenant-Colonel of the Battalion, and his Lordship ordered an inquiry to be held with regard to the matter. The inquiry was held in the Tower Hotel, the Court being composed of three officers of the Battalion, viz., Major Sir George Douglas and Lieutenant Johnstone of the 2nd Roxburgh (Kelso), and Lieutenant Tod of the 3rd Roxburgh (Melrose). The officers constituting the Court appeared in full uniform, as did also the complainer, Mr Dickson; but, Bailie Fraser, who had, from the first, taken up the position that the Court had no jurisdiction to consider his actions when not under arms and in civilian attire, attended in plain clothes. He at once took objection to such a tribunal taking cognisance of his conduct as a civilian member of the community; but announced that in courtesy to the officers comprising the Court he made no objection to the case being proceeded with.

Bailie Fraser, with the view of having all the circumstances placed before the Court, had prepared a long written statement from which we give the following extract:—

"This brings me to 1st January (1863), the time when this charge is founded. On the last night of the year, the 4th had another ball, to which six of the 5th were invited, and, in addition to this, all the officers of the 5th were honoured with a special invitation, with the exception of your humble servant.

"This I naturally took for the last and crowning insult that they could inflict on me; and I hold that it was not only an insult to me, as an individual, but a special insult to the Lord Lieutenant, who recommended me for, and to Her Majesty the Queen, who invested me with, the commission; for it should be remembered that a ball, held as a 'Rifle Volunteer' ball, is, to a certain extent, regulated by Volunteer rules, and entirely different from any private party given by an officer, or officers, as private individuals. I can look upon it, then, in no other light than that of a studied and premeditated insult. In Hawick, Old



MR. JAMES THOMSON,  
Author of "The Hawick Volunteers" and other popular local songs.



and New Year Days are days of general festivity, invitations from friends to friends being very plentiful. Along with Mr Watson we had visited a few friends of ours, and, I need not shrink from stating it, partaken of a share of the usual New Year hospitality. We called at the Tower Hotel for Mr Watson's brother, who had been at the ball, and met Mr Dickson and others. During the conversation which took place, the question was put to me by Mr Aitchison, younger, of Linhope—'Why I had not been at the ball,' and this called forth the remarks which appear to have given so much offence. It was a most unfortunate question at the time, smarting, as I undoubtedly was, under the recorded gross insult; and, I admit freely, that I censured the 4th in no measured terms, both as regarded their dirty tricks, as related, and as to the dirty state of their arms, which was, of course, quite public, and undeniable. I did this good-humouredly, however aggravating it might be; but, on my remarking that the officers of the 4th were said to consider themselves better than those of the 5th, and that they did not fraternise with them as they ought to do, Mr Dickson replied, 'Not with you any way—all that we want with you is to see you as little as possible.' I retaliated by some allusions to his 'drill,' which were more meant for retaliation than anything else; whereupon he called me a damned brute, and left the room crying, 'You are a brute and a beast.' With regard to attempting to assault him, the statement is simply ridiculous, however well he might have deserved it; for, any man who would use such terms towards another cannot expect anything else, and should receive it. In this case, however, I never thought of attempting such a thing.

"Next day I received a letter from Mr Dickson, couched in terms which I could not condescend to reply to after what he had called me, and the next that I heard of this was an application for a Court of Inquiry."

The Court resolved to confine themselves strictly to the matter under inquiry, and refused to allow the Bailie to read the first portion of his narrative. A full report of the inquiry was forwarded to Lord Polwarth, who handed the same to the Duke of Buccleuch, the Lord Lieutenant of the county, his Lordship, in turn, laying it before the War Office. Shortly afterwards Lord Polwarth wrote Bailie Fraser requesting him to resign his lieutenancy, but this the Bailie declined to accede to, adhering firmly and dogmatically to the position he had taken up, viz., that the War Office had no jurisdiction over a Volunteer in his civilian character, and that he was not on duty when the

altercation took place. Subsequently, the Bailie received a formal intimation from the War Office that he had been divested of his commission.

The case aroused great interest, not only in Hawick, but throughout the country, and was noticed at length by many of the daily newspapers; the point of issue being considered one of vital importance to the Volunteer movement, and one, the decision of which was likely to have a far-reaching effect.

There would appear to be little doubt that the Ball Committee of the 4th Roxburgh fully intended that Bailie Fraser should be invited along with his brother officers; but, apparently through someone blundering, the invitation had not been received. The Bailie was most emphatic that no invitation reached him, and Mr Michael Wintrup, who had delivered the invitations, declared that he could not say whether he had one for the Bailie or not. Thus small events often give rise to large issues.

Lieutenant Fraser's dismissal was very much resented by the majority of his comrades in arms, and 77 members of the Corps handed in their resignations to Captain Wilson. The ground for their resignation was stated by them to be that they had joined the Volunteer movement under the impression that they were not amenable to military law or discipline, except when under arms or on duty; but that on account of recent proceedings they had discovered that their actions as civilians were liable to be reviewed by a military tribunal. As an outward expression of the esteem and respect in which the Bailie was held by the members of the Hawick Corps, he was entertained in the Crown Hotel, on the evening of 19th May, 1863, by a large number of the members who had resigned, the company numbering upwards of fifty. Mr Walter Laurie presided, and, in proposing the health of their guest, said Lieutenant Fraser was "peculiarly endeared to them as a Magistrate, Justice of the Peace and Town Councillor—endeared to them by his manliness, goodness, of heart, strong common-sense, and his thorough repugnance and contempt for all pretension and sham." Mr Laurie further referred to the Court of Inquiry, and said Bailie

Fraser had made a manly stand against a monstrous and wanton depreciation of their civil rights as citizens.

Bailie Fraser, in the course of a characteristic reply, said:—

I regret, of course, the disruption, but I rejoice in the manly and straightforward support which the members have given me under this recent gross act of undeserved tyranny, and, while I tender my best thanks for that support, let me, at least, as a small return, therefore, assure you that had the same perverted justice been attempted on any member of the corps I would have supported him by the same means—failing others—which you have so nobly carried into effect. I may say this, and I candidly tell you, that, in my opinion, the base treatment I have received is purely the results of a well-planned and long-standing scheme to effect my removal from the proud position of Lieutenant of the best corps in the battalion. The more I think this over the more deeply rooted the conviction becomes, but, mind you, I do not say, and I do not believe that the vile plotters had any intention of breaking up the 5th Corps. I was the only objectionable feature therein—and for what? Only because I had exposed a tissue of bad treatment and broken pledges perpetrated by a Gentleman. Gentlemen forsooth and officers! What will future Johnsons, Websters and Walkers in their dictionaries call those terms? Assuredly they must be—"Gentleman,—one who does not fulfil his solemn pledges. Officer,—one who runs away at the first symptom of danger." I may tell you this, however, that although I have been in this case the victim—offered up at the shrine of paltry low feelings—that this consolation at least remains, that the whole movement will shortly be paralysed if the authorities do not see it to be their duty to give way, for, in London, where I happened to be last week, the question is attracting great attention among the volunteers, and, on Saturday, nearly forty of the London Corps were to hold meetings to consider this question, with others pertaining to the movement.

Lieutenant Fraser's dismissal, and the retirals which followed thereon had, as was only to be expected, the most disastrous effect upon the Corps. On the August following Captain Wilson announced that he was unable to continue in the position of Captain, and, although efforts were made to get Mr William Elliot of Benrig, and some other gentlemen to accept the commission, these were unsuccessful, and, within the year, the Corps was disbanded.

The following song entitled "The Hawick Volunteers" was written by Mr James Thomson, and sung for the first time by Bailie Fraser at a concert in connection with the Hawick Corps on the 13th December, 1860:—

Yon eagle, with the brooding brow,  
 Would soar across the main;  
 His pinions plucked at Waterloo,  
 Have gathered strength again  
 He deems, within his place of pride,  
 To wear the British crown—  
 To pluck fair England's Rose, and tread  
 The bearded Thistle down.

Fair Albion saw the coming storm,  
 Her banner broad appears;  
 She gave the gathering cry to form  
 Her Rifle Volunteers—  
 With heart of steel and willing hand,  
 For Merry England's law;  
 Yon brooding eagle still must bend  
 Beneath the Lion's paw.

Auld Scotland heard the bodin' soun'  
 And threw her crook away—  
 And foul fa' ilka coward loon  
 Wha winna join the fray—  
 Syne banged her gun frae aff the wa'  
 Wi' belt and bayonet keen,  
 And swore to conquer or to fa'  
 To keep her Thistle green.

There's ae auld toon by Teviot's side,  
 That's famed in days of yore;  
 Her independence is her pride,  
 And loyal to the core.  
 There's ae auld flag maun wave on high,  
 When Scotland's foe appears;  
 And "Teribus" the battle cry  
 Of Hawick Volunteers.

## LOCAL INSTITUTIONS, &c.

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**A**LTHOUGH the temperance cause had not so many supporters in and out of Parliament in the early sixties as now, yet the passing of the Forbes Mackenzie Act in 1853, and the good results which had followed that measure, encouraged a rising wave of temperance sentiment throughout the land. In Hawick many strong advocates of the cause were to be found, including such able platform speakers as Mr James Douglas, Mr J. A. H. (now Sir James) Murray, Mr Alexander Hogg, Mr William Inglis, Mr William Walker, Mr Robert Murray, Mr W. Norman Kennedy, Mr John Scott (dyer), Mr William Marshall, Mr J. C. Goodfellow, Mr William Murray, Mr Richard Purdom, Mr Francis Hogg, and others. They held frequent meetings at which various phases of the drink question were keenly and intelligently expounded and debated, while they had many gatherings of a social character. In those days it was a somewhat difficult task to make some of the older members of the community believe that it was possible to enjoy a convivial night without the assistance of the flowing glass, and it is related that when the old temperance hotel on the Tower Knowe changed hands in 1863 the new tenant, Mr Robert Murray, gave a "house-heating" to which a number of his friends were invited, most of whom were strong teetotallers. Jock Weens, the worthy old cobbler of the Kirkstile, happening to pass the hotel door in the course of the evening, and hearing sounds of hilarity inside was heard to exclaim, as he shook his head, "Say as ye like, say as ye like, that's no a' off coffee."

The leading association of the town at that time was the Hawick Total Abstinence Society which had been founded in 1838, and did much, both within the burgh and in the surrounding district, to spread its principles among the people. The New Year soiree of



the Society was annually one of the events of that festive season, and was always very largely attended. In 1860 it was held in the Subscription Rooms, and, in the following year, in order to accommodate the large numbers who desired to be present, it was held in one of the commodious unfurnished flats of the new portion of Dangerfield Mills, which was in the course of erection, when there was an attendance of something like 800 persons. In 1862 it was held in the new auction mart, in Bourtree Place, which had been erected for Messrs Andrew Oliver & Son. Perhaps, however, the largest and most successful soiree ever held under the auspices of the Society was that on the New Year's night of 1864, in the old passenger Railway Station—now the goods shed—finely fitted up and decorated for the occasion, at which over 1000 people were present. The difficulty of getting a hall sufficiently large was much felt, and various expedients had to be resorted to by the Committee to overcome this serious obstacle which yearly confronted them. Thus, in 1865, they had again to seek a fresh venue, and Messrs Laing & Irvine's large new warehouse in Commercial Road (now Messrs Currie, Lee & Gawn's) was secured for the occasion. About this time there was also a flourishing Juvenile Total Abstinence Society under the presidency of Mr William Inglis, which sought to exercise an influence for good among the rising generation of the town.

The Hawick Literary Society was an association formed for the cultivation of literary tastes among the young men of the town, the president of which for some time was Mr Adam Paterson, Mr A. P. Innes being vice-president. Their meetings were held in Miss Riddle's room in High Street. Essays were read, various social and literary topics were discussed, and many profitable and pleasant evenings spent. Another institution of a literary character which existed for some time was the Eclectic Club, which also met periodically in Miss Riddle's room. The idea of such a club originated with some of the members of the then existing Trades Library, who united in order to purchase new works on science, literature, and philosophy which could not be otherwise obtained. The Club attained a success far

above the expectations of its founders, and its library contained a valuable collection of the most recent works in those departments of literature, and embraced volumes by John Stuart Mill, Ruskin, Carlyle, Buckle, Thackeray, George Eliot, Tennyson, Darwin, Hugh Miller, Mazzini, Victor Hugo, and others.

The Hawick Archæological Society, founded in 1856, was also enjoying a vigorous and useful existence in the early sixties, and most interesting and valuable papers were contributed monthly to its Transactions by Mr W. Norman Kennedy, Mr J. A. H. Murray, Mr Alexander Michie, Mr Robert Murray, Mr A. D. Murray, Mr J. C. Goodfellow, and others. A number of objects of antiquarian and scientific interest were presented to the Society, and so rapidly did the collection grow that it was soon found necessary to rent a room from Mr Waugh, clothier, in which to store the articles. In 1858 a three years' lease was taken of a larger and more suitable room in Mr Milligan's premises at the east end of the High Street, and here the Museum was first opened at a small charge to the public.

For several seasons interesting Winter Courses of Lectures were arranged by a local committee, the lectures being sometimes given in the Subscription Rooms, and, at other times, in the E.U. Congregational Church. Season tickets were issued at 5/- and 2/6, the admission charged to single lectures being 1/- and 6d. The services of able and well-known lecturers were secured, but it may be questioned if many of the subjects then chosen would prove acceptable to a popular audience at the present day. None of them were illustrated by lime-light views, and moving pictures were unthought of. Among the lectures delivered may be mentioned:—"Religion and Morals," by the Rev. Dr George Gilfillan, Dundee; "The Jacobite Minstrelsy," by Mr James Ballantine, Edinburgh, author of "Castles in the air," etc.; "The Buried Palaces of Assyria," by Rev. M. Davidson, Birdhopecraig; "The Unity of the Bodily Organism," by W. B. Hodgins, LL.D., London; "The Reign of Henry VIII.," by the Hon. Dudley Campbell, Hartrigge; "Knox's Luther," by the Rev. P. Hately Waddell; "Central Africa," by Mr W. E. Malcolm, Burnfoot;



MR ROBERT MICHIE.  
A prominent townsman in the early sixties.

and "Old England's Sea Kings, how they lived, fought and died," by Mr Gerald Massey. These ponderous and didactic subjects were occasionally interspersed by an evening's dramatic readings by Mr Henry Nicholls, London; Mr Melville Bell, Edinburgh, and others.

The town was frequently favoured with visits of dramatic companies for longer or shorter periods. Sometimes a wooden booth would be erected in the Haugh, and on other occasions a lease of the Subscription Rooms would be taken. Those were the days of stock companies, and for one company to settle down in the town for eight or ten weeks, which was nothing unusual, meant that they must have a most extensive repertoire. Mr H. S. Wynn was well-known, bringing popular companies to the Subscription Rooms, and on the occasion of his visit in January, 1861, he announced a perfect galaxy of cosmopolitan stars, such as:—Miss Eliza Juno, from the Queen's Theatre, Edinburgh; Mrs R. Hewitt, from the Theatre Royal, Liverpool; Mrs Hughes, from the Theatre Royal, Dundee; Mrs Harry Needham, from the Sheffield Theatre; Mrs W. A. Proctor, from the Theatre Royal, Newcastle; Mrs J. Gladhill, from Birmingham. This engagement opened with the performance of "The Lady of Lyons," Miss Juno taking the part of Pauline. Among some of the other pieces staged were "Fraud and its victims, or, who are the real Poor?" "The Bride of Lammermoor;" "Jane Shore;" "Hermitage Castle in the Olden Times," written by a Hawick author; "St Clair of the Isles;" "Chevy Chase," etc. Occasional visits were also paid by Mr George Duckenfield and his company, the plays being generally produced in a wooden booth in the Common Haugh.

Miss Juno, who was the leading lady in Mr Wynn's company, was a great favourite with the patrons of the drama, and, as she was handsome she received considerable attention from several young men of the town. Among her admirers was one who, notwithstanding all his efforts, was unsuccessful in gaining her favour; in fact, the persistency with which he urged his suite became extremely distasteful to Miss Juno. Towards the close of the engagement a special benefit night was arranged for her, and while the performance was greatly

enjoyed by the crowded audience, it had a peculiar interest to a small company who were in the secret with regard to the interlude. Miss Juno was an accomplished vocalist as well as a brilliant actress, and as a special item for the evening's programme Mr James Thomson had been requested to write an original song for her. The song which was entitled "Willie lo'es me weel," was splendidly rendered by Miss Juno. In a crowded house her admirer was prominent, standing against one of the pillars where he could be easily seen from the stage, as well as see everything occurring there, while his supposed rival, the Willie of the song (a respected town-man, happily, still in our midst), was seated in the centre of the room. Suiting her movements to the words of the song, Miss Juno pointed to each "gallant" alternately, as remonstrance to the one or approval of the other demanded, to the unbounded entertainment of those in the secret. When the performance was ended a fresh mortifying experience awaited the rejected suitor, for, while waiting in the hall to offer himself as an escort, Miss Juno passed, as if unconscious of his presence, chatting vivaciously and leaning on the arm of her "laddie kind and leal." The following are the verses of the song:—

Now laddie, a' your winnin' airt  
 Will ha'e nae sway wi' me,  
 Ye needna seek to win my heart—  
 It's no my ain to gi'e.  
 For there is ane I dearly lo'e,  
 A laddie kind and leal,  
 I ken that he will aye be true—  
 For Willie lo'es me weel.

My mither still may scauld and ban,  
 And a' the men misca',  
 She says they're flatterers ilka ane,  
 And Willie warst o' a'.  
 My laddie's heart she canna ken,  
 Sae out at e'en I'll steal,  
 And meet him in yon bonnie glen,  
 For Willie lo'es me weel.



We've climb'd Glenburnie's bonnie braes,  
Twa happy-hearted bairns;  
We've den'd 'aneath the blooming slaes,  
And row'd amang the ferns.  
There's mony a weary change sin then,  
But Willie's constant still,  
And we'll be wed when winter's gane,  
For Willie lo'es me weel.

The visits of Delaney's Equestrian Company to the town were regarded by a very large section of the population as events of considerable importance. Delaney, as successor to the popular Ord, a favourite with the previous generation, gave open-air performances nightly in the Common Haugh. Excellent entertainments were provided gratis, the business being financed by means of lotteries held each evening, the tickets for which were disposed of amongst the audience.

At this period there was a great want of suitable hall accommodation for concerts, public meetings, theatrical performances, soirees, and other gatherings. The Town Hall, which was quite small and unsuitable for such purposes, was only available for public meetings. Dances and weddings were held in the ballrooms connected with several of the licensed houses, and the Black Bull ballroom, the Fleece ballroom, and the Half Moon ballroom, were favourite resorts of dancing parties. Concerts, dramatic entertainments and social gatherings were generally held either in the Subscription Rooms in Buccleuch Street, or in the Tower Hotel Assembly Room. The Subscription Rooms formed part of the old Commercial Hotel, the premises now occupied by Messrs James Bonsor & Co., hosiery manufacturers. These rooms were erected in 1821 by a local company, the shareholders numbering 147. The amount of their subscriptions being insufficient to meet the cost of the site and building, they borrowed to make up the deficiency, and it required the whole income from the premises for upwards of forty years to clear off the debt and pay interest. The building was disposed of by public auction on the 22nd April, 1864, being knocked down to Mr George Tait, builder, for £1000. Mr Tait was acting on behalf of

Mr Mudie, teacher, who, for several years afterwards, occupied the premises as an academy. The first dividend received by the shareholders was the year before the premises were sold, and was one of 5 per cent.

The foundation stone of the Subscription Rooms was laid with Masonic honours on the 21st June, 1821. The members of Lodge St John, No. 111, met in the Tower Hotel at noon on the day in question, when brethren were present from sister lodges in Kelso, Jedburgh, Selkirk, and Langholm. A procession was formed, and paraded the principal streets of the town. A casket, containing various coins of the realm, and newspapers of the period, was deposited in the stone, which was laid by the R.W.M. of the Lodge, Bro. Francis Ballantyne, according to Masonic rites. Afterwards the brethren dined together in the Tower Hotel, one hundred and twelve being present. The following poem was written for the occasion by Bro. James Ruickbie, who was tyler of the Lodge at that time:—

This house, a public building, is designed  
To gratify the curious human mind;  
Subservient to the parson and the player,  
By turns a theatre and an house of prayer;  
Within its walls may sometimes be perchance,  
The thrilling music and the graceful dance;  
In it the juggler may his tricks reveal,  
And in it sometimes masons raise the deil;  
Methinks I hear the superstitious say,  
What man would go to such a house to pray?  
A house profaned by everything unholy,  
A mere receptacle for sin and folly!  
But with your leave my superstitious brother,  
Say, is one place more sacred than another?  
It is the heart that sanctifies the place,  
And 'tis the heart that brings it to disgrace;  
We, without breach of charity may say  
That saints may sometimes dance and sinners pray,  
King David danced, nor of it was ashamed,  
And prayed—and for his dancing ne'er was blamed.

Then may this building prosperously rise,  
Its lofty summit pointing to the skies;  
And when 'tis finished, height, and breadth, and length,  
Its pillars be stability and strength.

A Burns Club was formed early in 1862, and the first meeting was held in Miss Riddle's room in the High Street, on the 20th February, when the president, Mr John Scott, dyer, delivered a short inaugural address, in the course of which he stated that the object they had in view was the establishment of a club which would, to a larger degree, unite the social with the intellectual than was commonly attempted by Mutual Improvement Societies. By this means they hoped to make their meetings more attractive to young men. Mr Scott, in the course of his address, proceeded to show how intimately the National Bard had been associated with all that was Scottish, and how closely his name was interwoven in the hearts of the people, not only with literature and poetry, but with their social feelings and instincts. He thought such social enjoyment might go a considerable length in robbing the dram shop of its subtle attractiveness. Through the absence of such institutions many, he believed, were induced to spend their leisure hours in an unprofitable and pernicious manner. Among others associated with the Club were James Thomson, the well-known local poet, Robert Murray, Alexander Murray, and William Murray. Monthly meetings were held when papers on literary subjects were contributed by the members, the evenings being enlivened by songs, readings and recitations. The Club continued to exist for some years.

There are few towns in Scotland where gardening, as a pastime, is followed so keenly and enthusiastically by the industrial classes as in Hawick, and this, of course, is due to the abundant facilities provided for acquiring allotment gardens. In March, 1860, the Duke of Buccleuch granted the field at the top of the Loan, on the north side of the road leading to Langbaulk, then tenanted by Robert Paterson, for allotments. There were over forty applicants, but, as the ground would only permit of twenty allotments being laid out, these had to be balloted for.

About 1845 the movement began in Hawick for allotments, and the first field which was divided up for that purpose was one in the Wellogate belonging to the Brieryyards estate—the ground on which Lothian Street and Garfield Street are now built. These allotments were always known as the “Weedy Gardens,” probably on account of the luxuriant crop of weeds which grew there. About the same time a field in Bridge Street—between Croft Road and Dovecot Street—also belonging to the Brieryyards estate, was apportioned for that purpose. The field on the Wilton glebe lying to the east of the Old Churchyard was also set aside for allotments, as was likewise Mr John Laing’s field at the Maltsteep, and a large piece of ground lying northwards of Ladylaw Place, belonging to Messrs George and James Oliver. In 1851 forty allotments were laid out on the piece of ground in the west end of the town known as the Old Glebe, and, at the same time the Loch Park was divided off into 45 allotments for the benefit of those residing in the east end of the town. Three years later, for the convenience of residents at Wilton Dean, 34 allotments were staked off there, and to meet the growing demands for further gardens the fields in the west end, known as Dykecroft and Langbaulk, were let for this purpose. Subsequently, the two fields on the Hawick Glebe, lying between the Wellogate and the Twirlees, were also staked off for allotments.

The postal facilities in those days were poor compared with those now enjoyed. The Post Office was situated at 25 High Street, and the postmaster was Mr Francis Deans, who had succeeded his father, Mr Robert Deans, printer. There were only two deliveries of letters a day—the Parcel Post, now so useful and much taken advantage of, had not then been called into existence—and these were undertaken by two postmen, the senior being old Robert Bryce, who will still be remembered by many townspeople. Mr Francis Deans was promoted to the position of postmaster of Paisley in May, 1805, and he was succeeded in Hawick by his brother, Mr George Deans.

Thrift among the working classes was encouraged by the National Security Savings Bank, which was established in Hawick in 1815, the

memorable year in which Waterloo was fought. In 1860, the deposits held by the bank amounted to £19,928, and by 1865 these had risen to £24,850, the depositors in the latter year numbering 1245. By the end of 1912 the number of depositors had increased to 6055, and the amount deposited to £151,243. A Penny Savings Bank was formed in Hawick in 1859, and did much to inculcate the principles of thrift among children and young people. It had between 600 and 700 depositors, and an average of about £250 was deposited annually.

While the wages of all classes of workmen were considerably lower fifty years ago than now, the social habits of the people were much simpler, and a great deal less was spent on food, dress, holidays, and entertainments. Local and Imperial taxation was also much lighter, and, taken all round, the prices of household commodities were below present-day rates. Tea and sugar were higher, tea varying from 2/6 to 4 4 per lb., crushed sugar from 4½d to 5½d per lb., and loaf sugar from 5½d to 6½d per lb., but most articles were lower. Finest Scotch flour retailed at 2/2 per stone, and the second quality at 2/. The finest Canadian flour sold at 2/4, and the best American at 2/2; best oatmeal at 1/9; best barleymeal at 1/4; and best peasemeal at 1/6. The best Liddesdale butter was 1/ per lb.; best Danish butter 10d to 1/1; best fresh butter, 9d to 11d; Gouda cheese, 5d per lb.; Dunlop cheese, 6d to 7d; cheddar cheese, 8d to 9d. Ham and bacon were considerably lower in price, American bacon selling at from 3½d to 4d per lb. in shoulders; finest home cured bacon, 7d per lb., in pieces; Belfast roll bacon, 7d per lb., in cuts 6d; Belfast ham, 9d per lb., in whole or half hams, and 10d per lb. in slices. Butcher-meat all round was from twenty-five to thirty per cent. under current prices. The four pound loaf varied from 5d to 6½d. Coal was very much cheaper, the best household Plashetts costing only 11/6 a ton. The whisky duty was much lower, and ordinary qualities could be had at from 2/ to 2/6 per quart bottle, "special" retailing at 3/. The food of the people was not so carefully looked after then as now, and a number of articles were glaringly adulterated, while fruit, fish, and meat thoroughly unfit for consumption were openly exposed for sale. The





Rev. JAMES STEWART, M.A., Wilton.

first prosecution in Hawick for exposing unsound meat for sale took place in April, 1865, when a butcher carrying on business in the Cross Wynd was charged with having in his possession the carcass of a cow weighing 473 lbs. which was unfit for human food. The accused at first denied the offence, but, after Dr McLeod, Dr Grant, Mr Forsythe, butcher, and Mr David Paterson, butcher, had been heard as witnesses for the prosecution, he pleaded guilty. Seeing it was the first case of the kind which had been before the Court Bailie Fraser said he thought the ends of justice would be served by imposing a fine of one shilling and declaring the meat forfeited.

The dawn of the sixties found Freemasonry dormant in Hawick, but in a very short period a successful effort was made to resuscitate the existing lodge, and, from then till the present time, the craft in our midst has been in an active and prosperous condition. When the first Masonic lodge was instituted in Hawick is not exactly known, but on the 15th March, 1768, a charter was granted by the Grand Lodge of Scotland for the establishment of a lodge, the terms of which indicate that for some time previously a lodge had been at work without any regular constitution. By the charter of 1768, the lodge was numbered 141. In 1816 the number was altered to 108, and in 1828 it was again changed to 111. In 1849 the lodge ceased to work, and for 23 years no meeting was held. On the 24th April, 1860, it was resolved to resuscitate the lodge, and on the 2nd June of that year Mr William Irvine (of the firm of Laing & Irvine, tweed merchants) was elected Right Worshipful Master. On its resuscitation it received the number 407, but in February, 1862, its former number, 111, was restored. The Volunteer dispute, referred to elsewhere in this volume, occasioned considerable feeling in Masonic circles, and the outcome was the formation of another lodge in town. In August, 1863, the Grand Lodge granted a charter for the establishment of Lodge St James, No. 424, the first R.W.M. being Mr James Millin. Among some of the more prominent members of the newly-formed lodge were Bailie Fraser, Mr Walter Laurie, Mr Michael Scott, Mr Andrew Paterson, Mr James Purves, Mr George Thom, etc.

The Teviotdale Farmers' Club, which was formed towards the latter end of 1850, pursued a vigorous existence during the early sixties and is still continuing a career of much usefulness. At the commencement of the club Mr William Aitchison, of Linhope, was unanimously elected to the president's chair, which position he filled with much acceptance till his death in 1873, with the exception of one year (1860-61) when it was held by Mr William Grieve, Branhholme Park. Valuable papers were read at the meetings of the club, and arable and pastoral affairs were discussed with keenness and intelligence. The average prices of stock in the Hawick district were struck, and a watchful eye was kept on all passing events, especially on measures before Parliament, likely to affect the interests of agriculturalists. Mr James Oliver, of Thornwood, was secretary of the club from its institution till his death on the 15th July, 1905.

While great progress was being made in social and municipal reform fifty years ago, educational and religious matters were not neglected. The Parish Church schools, as well as the private venture ones, were imparting a sound education to the young, some of the principal teachers then engaged in the work being Mr Anthony Dodds, Mr William Murray, Mr J. A. H. Blaine, Mr James Ker, Mr Jacob Jay, Mr Mudie, and Mr J. A. H. now Sir James Murray. At the same time the pulpits of the various churches were filled by earnest, able, and devoted ministers. At the Disruption in 1843, the Rev. John A. Wallace, who, ten years previously, had been presented to the Parish Church of Hawick by the Duke of Buccleuch, left the Establishment, and, along with the great mass of his congregation, formed the Hawick Free Church (now St George's). Mr Wallace's successor in the Parish Church was the Rev. John MacRae, one of the most eloquent and scholarly preachers of his period, and who, in 1864, had the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity conferred upon him by the University of Glasgow. When the young minister was presented to the Parish of Hawick, the congregation worshipped in St Mary's, the present Hawick Parish Church being opened in October, 1844. St Mary's was later formed into a quoad sacra charge, and the Rev. John Thomson

was inducted to it in 1860. The Rev. Mr Wallace retired from the ministry of Hawick Free Church in 1864, his colleague and successor, the Rev. W. H. Gaulter being translated to Aberdeen the same year. On account of Mr Wallace's failing health, Mr Gaulter had been ordained as his colleague in 1858. In 1864 the Rev. John McGregor became minister of the church. In 1851 the Rev. James Stewart of St Mary's, Dumfries, was presented to Wilton Parish, and after his settlement he strongly recommended the erection of a new church. Nothing, however, was done, till 1858 when the question was taken up by the heritors, and the present church erected at a cost of about £3000. It was opened on 24th November, 1861. The three United Presbyterian Churches—East Bank, Allars, and the West End, were all in a prosperous condition. East Bank Church parted with their esteemed minister, the Rev. Adam Thomson, in November, 1860, Mr Thomson leaving for a charge in Sydney, and afterwards becoming Principal of St Andrew's College there. Mr Thomson was succeeded by the Rev. James McEwen, who still, in his ripe old age, faithfully ministers to Sydney Place U.F. Church, Glasgow. In the early years of the sixties the pulpit of Allars Church was filled by the Rev. Thomas Russell, who had been ordained to the charge in October, 1857. Mr Russell was translated to Albion Chapel, London, in February, 1863, his successor being the Rev. Robert Muir, who was inducted to the pastorate on the 13th July, 1864. The West End Church, with which the name of the Rev. Dr John Young was so long associated, had been ministered to by the Rev. Andrew Rodgie for the long period of 53 years. Mr Rodgie was ordained to the charge in 1806, and about two-and-a-half years before his death, which took place on the 16th January, 1860, the Rev. James Parlane had been called as his colleague and successor. The other ministers in town at this period were:—E.U. Congregational Church, the Rev. Robert Mitchell; Congregational Church, the Rev. William Munro; Baptist Church, the Rev. William Anderson; St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church, the Rev. John Rose Dakers; and the Roman Catholic Church, the Rev. Father Taggart.







LOCAL COLLECTION





